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Panov Calls For Multilateral Conference on Korean Crisis

LD0704184194

[Editorial Report] Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian at 1425 GMT on 7 April broadcasts a 15-minute program entitled "The Korean Knot" presented by Vitaliy Ilyashenko. The program includes a factual account by the correspondent on the crisis around the DPRK's non-observance of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. A studio discussion is chaired by Ilyashenko with Aleksandr Panov, deputy minister of foreign affairs and Professor Anatoliy Torkunov, rector of the Institute of International Relations.

Panov says that in view of the high troop concentration on the border between the Korean states the situation is very volatile there. He goes on to call for a multilateral international conference on the problem, saying: "We believe that we should, that it is right to use the channels in existence—the Security Council, certainly—but since the bilateral variant is not working, let us then go back to the idea of a multilateral conference. It should be said that no one has yet—but we have only just put this idea forward—no one has yet, as they say, swept it aside—even the DPRK, although when I explained this initiative to the North Korean ambassador in Moscow he already knew about the initiative and did not react negatively to it.

"Other countries are also studying it. The United States have come out and said that in principle they believe that such a conference should be well prepared—and we agree—and they have already put forward a set of positions that should be reinforced during the conference. These are the unconditional and full return of the DPRK to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. All of this coincides with our policy. But we need to go further. We need to give some sort of guarantee to North Korea and ensure the non-nuclear status of the Korean peninsula and the sovereignty of the Korean states and non-intervention in their internal affairs. So, there is a complex of measures to go through before we can solve this problem."

Asked what the treaty between Russia and the DPRK would mean in the event of a deterioration in the military situation on the Korean peninsula, Panov says: "As the legal successor of the Soviet Union, Russia continues to fulfill the commitments of that treaty. It has not been denounced and the only thing, of course, is that the situation has changed, and therefore we have made a statement of which the DPRK has been informed: How we interpret the article that stipulates assistance and support for the DPRK in the event of an emergency situation of the kind.

"It was stated that assistance would be given only in the event of an unsanctioned aggression against the DPRK. We ourselves will analyze the situation on the basis of our own sources of information and how the problems are dealt with. We will assess the degree of threat, the degree of aggression and its character, and we will operate within our legislation and our Constitution, and we will certainly take into account Russia's international obligations—for instance those under the International Atomic Energy Agency Treaty and the UN Charter. So our position here is quite clear."

When the discussion turned to the possibility of UN sanctions against the DPRK, Panov says: "We believe that matters should not be brought to the level of sanctions and that if it is impossible to solve this within the framework of the Security Council, then there is the option of a conference. That is to say, there is quite a way to go before we arrive at sanctions. We need to use every option."

Tajik Reconciliation Talks Continue in Moscow

MK0704103094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Apr 94 p 3

[Salim Ayubzod, Igor Rotar report under the "talks" rubric: "Tajiks Seek Peace in Moscow"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The Tajik Government delegation at talks in Moscow that opened on 5 April insists on the following provisions: the suspension of hostilities along the Tajik-Afghan border, and the return of refugees from Afghanistan and CIS countries. Shukur Zukhurov, head of the government delegation and minister of labor and population employment, who previously would not give any guarantees of safety of refugees wishing to go back to Tajikistan, stated in his address that the republic's government gives full guarantees to all who "wish to return to the republic with the intention of rehabilitating the ravaged economy." But right on the heels of it Zukhurov added in an interview for a NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent that this question would only be resolved through joint efforts of the government and the opposition. Zukhurov paid special attention in his address to the question of guarding the border. "Helped by Russia and the CIS countries, Tajikistan will be able to protect itself, but we do not want this to be done at the price of young people dying. Which is why these talks are so important," Zukhurov declared.

Otakhon Latifi, head of the opposition forces delegation and chairman of the Coordination Center of Democratic Forces of Tajikistan in CIS Countries, underlined right at the start of the talks that the opposition had not gone back on their plan for the settlement of the conflict, and he thought that the border question, like the one about the return of refugees, cannot be resolved without political accord. A political consensus, according to the opposition, becomes possible in the event of the creation of a Council for National Reconciliation (with representatives of all regions of the republic taking part), a State Council comprising neutral and competent people, disarmament and disbandment of all government and opposition armed groups and formations, the return of

refugees, and the holding of free democratic elections. In his interview for a NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent, Latifi pointed out that even today's Dushanbe leaders, "including in that number Emomali Rakhmonov himself, talk about the incompetence of the old parliament, whereas electing a new parliament in conditions of a breakdown of law and order and the absence from Tajikistan of nearly 1 million citizens is a road toward a new impasse." [passage omitted]

So far Tajikistan's government has been rather evasive in its reaction to the opposition's demand for the creation of a State Council. For example, Makhmadsaid Ubaydullayev, Tajikistan Council of Ministers deputy chairman, underlined in an interview to ITAR-TASS yesterday that today's government is quite legitimate because it was elected by the country's Supreme Soviet. On the other hand, in Ubaydullayev's opinion, this question, likewise the form of a future state system of the republic, can be decided on and chosen only by the people of Tajikistan rather than an individual group of people. In this sense, the deputy prime minister ruled out the holding of a referendum.

According to information from trustworthy sources, results of the current talks are being eagerly awaited not only by tens of thousands of refugees, but also by armed opposition groups. Conferences of opposition field commanders are taking place these days in Talukan (Afghanistan) to discuss further actions. Sources maintain that these forces have so far undertaken no major offensive against the Tajik-Afghan border. [passage omitted]

Even if the talks take the most favorable turn, one should not forget about the time factor. Both sides are represented at today's stage of talks by "second echelons" of the power structures. A NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent was told in yesterday's telephone conversation by Haji Akbar Turadzhonzoda, former head of Tajikistan's Muslims who is now in Teheran, that he did not come to Moscow because the government delegation is not representative enough. Interestingly, Tajikistan Foreign Minister Rashid Alimov is in Moscow as a private individual and seems to be secretly in control of the official Dushanbe delegation.

It is therefore hardly probable that the delegations, in their present composition, will score appreciable successes. As in all similar conflicts, time is not on the side of those advocating compromise—a further delay in resolving the problem may result in the situation finally getting out of control and events assuming an uncontrolled, spontaneous nature.

Talks Proceeding in 'Calm' Atmosphere

LD0704223894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1726 GMT 7 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Vladimir Taranov and Boris Krivoshey]

[Text] Moscow April 7 TASS—The Moscow round of talks between the Tajik Government and anti-government opposition is proceeding in calm and businesslike atmosphere. Both negotiating teams demonstrate a constructive attitude towards problems tackled by the talks, spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry Grigoriy Karasin told a briefing on Thursday.

Nobody is under illusion that the current Tajik negotiations will immediately disentangle all knots, which is to take strained and ponderous efforts. Some recent reports by the mass media are based on off-the-record statements and do not tend to create a favourable atmosphere at the talks, the Foreign Ministry spokesman noted.

Participants in the Moscow round of Tajik talks agreed to refrain from hasty and comments. Only well-considered official reports will be provided to newsmen. Relations with the press will be coordinated by Piris-Ballon [name as received], the U.N. secretary general's special envoy for peace settlement in Tajikistan, Karasin told reporters.

Yeltsin Agrees to 15 Apr CIS Summit, Confirms Agenda

WS0804081594 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0300 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin who, in the first half of 1994, is also the CIS chairman, having held appropriate consultations, accepted the suggestion by CIS Executive Secretary Ivan Karatchenya regarding the date of the planned conference of the Council of the Heads of State and Government. The conference, as we have already reported, will be held on 15 April in Moscow. Boris Yeltsin confirmed the agenda of the conference. The latter includes the issues of the implementation of the treaty on forming the economic union and those of military-political cooperation. Aside from these, the conference will discuss issues entered on the agenda at the initiative of CIS members and statute bodies.

Drafting of Concept for Protecting CIS Borders Begins

WS0704124494 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1200 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Report attributed to RIA]

[Text] For the first time within the CIS framework, the drafting of a general concept has started, providing for the protection of the external borders of the CIS using the means and resources of the entire commonwealth. This has been told to an RIA correspondent by General Colonel Andrey Nikolayev, Russian Federation Border Troops commander in chief. According to him, the concept envisions a system of mutual commitments of the [CIS] states in providing security of both their own national borders and the borders of other countries. Protection of the borders will be maintained in a coordinated manner.

Further on Meeting of CIS Border Troops Commanders

PM0704131794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 Apr 94 p 2

[Nikolay Burbyga and Boris Vinogradov report: "Russian Border Troops Have Business Over the Border"]

[Text] The commanders of the 12 CIS countries' border troops have held a council meeting in Odintsovo near Moscow. This is the ninth session in the history of the Commconwealth, but it is the first time that it has been possible to gather together the full complement.

In an interview with IZVESTIYA Russia's reprsentative, Colonel General Andrey Nikolayev, indicated that the 100-percent quorum is evidence of the "partners' maturity" in realizing the importance of jointly guarding the CIS' external borders. The council participants cited the fact that a political concept is needed for cooperation in this field.

Regardless of whether the Commonwealth is reorganized into a Eurasian Union in the future, border guards must have a clear system of mutual commitments in order to ensure the security of the whole area. The possibility of each CIS member unilaterally introducing relaxed entry visa procedures for other states' citizens is precluded.

Until now border guards have cooperated on a bilateral footing. But in the future the intention is to sign regional agreements. Russia, Armenia, and Georgia and Russia, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan are preparing to sign such agreements. Steps are being taken to further strengthen the Tajik-Afghan border with the participation of five Commonwealth states. Ukraine and Moldavia [Moldova] have expressed a desire to join in the common work for the first time. Admittedly, Ukrainian representative Valeriy Gubenko did not wait for the council to completely finish its work before leaving for home "on official business."

Viktor Chernomyrdin received the generals and asked them to step up vigilance on the borders in order to protect Russia and the other Commonwealth countries from wholesale misfortune—the incursion of illegals from Asia and Africa. The premier promised on the government's behalf to afford every assistance in providing external borders with equipment.

It was decided to man on the "ethnic principle" outposts where Russian border guards have hitherto mainly served. New recruits will swear loyalty to their independent homeland and at the same time swear a "solemn vow" to Russia. Russian officers will keep their role as military advisers and technical experts.

The recommendations made by the council of commanders will be presented to the meeting of CIS heads of state and government, which is due to start work in Moscow 14 April.

Intelligence Service: Baltics Treated Same as Europe

LD0604162194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1416 GMT 6 Apr 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature by diplomatic correspondents Dmitriy Voskoboynikov, Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy and others]

[Text] In contrast to CIS countries against which Russia does not wage any intelligence operations, Russia's Intelligence Service treats the Baltic states as any other European countries, the press secretary of the Intelligence Service Director Tatyana Samolis declared in her interview with Interfax on Wednesday.

She voiced a supposition that the Federal Counterintelligence Service Director Sergey Stepashin, who declared at the scientific-practical conference in Moscow that the Eastern European countries as well as the former Soviet republics "make their intelligence activity against Russia more active," primarily meant the Baltic states.

Samolis underlined that "Russia's tactics with respect to the Baltic states will be a corresponding one in case Russia's interests demand this."

At the same time she specially noted that "if Russia does not wage intelligence operations in CIS countries it does not mean that it is not interested in the processes going on there." "In 1992 eight CIS states signed an agreement prohibiting intelligence activity against each other. Nevertheless, Russian intelligence follows the situation by all available means, including special ones,—said Samolis. They include information collection via the third countries and analysis of open sources. For example, we receive part of the information about Tajikistan from Afghanistan. Russia's leadership does not remain without any analysis of the processes taking place in CIS countries."

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 8 Apr

LD0804062194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0500 GMT 8 Apr 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow April 8 TASS—Today's newspapers highlight the results of voting in the Federation Council, the upper house of the Russian parliament, on whether to accept the resignation of Russia's Prosecutor-General Alexey Kazannik.

The Federation Council did not accept Kazannik's resignation and formally he still remains at his post. At the same time, according to the presidential decree dated February 26, the duties of prosecutor-general are being performed by Alexey Ilyushenko whose powers were reaffirmed on April 6 by President Boris Yeltsin.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI on the Federation Council vote: "Two prosecutors-general are too many for Russia. Through its decision, the Federation Council has drawn itself into a juridical collision, and an easy and painless way out of it can hardly be expected...

"Prior to making a new recommendation of a candidate for the office of prosecutor-general, the president should again suggest that the Federation Council accept Kazannik's resignation. The circle closes...

"It is clear that the Federation Council will not be able to resolve the problem without a thorough juridical analysis of the current situation and a search for a compromise solution".

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA on the same subject: "The Federation Council does not yield to the presidential team. Next move is to be made by the presidential side. The president should either recommend Alexey Kazannik to the Federation Council, or get to terms with the upper house of parliament in some other way".

TRUD carries an analytical article headlined "Who is Prosecutor- General in Russia?" Turning to the provisions of the new Constitution, the newspaper writes: "Since a prosecutor-general is appointed by the Federation Council on the president's recommendation, it can well be reckoned that the president should have presented prosecutor-general's candidacy to parliament for approval. This must also be demanded by the upper house of parliament.

"Neither the former nor the latter had been done in time. The president does not recommend Kazannik now because he has already accepted his resignation. On the other hand, by refusing to accept the resignation, the Federation Council has actually 'appointed' a prosecutor-general without the president's recommendation".

Newspapers also give prominence to a draft agreement on achieving civil accord in Russia, which President Yeltsin has referred to the two houses of parliament, as well as sent it for publication and country-wide discussion.

RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA runs an article in which it expresses doubt that the document would be implemented. "Special sections of this sizeable document deal with both regional, national and socio-economic policies... Obligations are envisioned in all of them. But would they be feasible in real life full of contradictions?"

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (Red Star) is more optimistic on the subject: "The draft agreement inspires hopes, albeit faint and indistinct."

PRAVDA frontpages statistics on the economic situation in the country: "In the first quarter of this year, industrial production declined by 25 percent. Food production continues to shrink. The amounts of milk and meat produced decreased by 15-18 percent and eggs by six percent. Investment diminished as production fell. Investments in the country's economy accounted for 75-80 percent of those in the corresponding period last year."

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA on the money incomes of the country's top officials. Under the headline "No One Wanted To Fill in a Declaration of Income", the newspaper carries an article which points to the construction of costly three-storey mansions for some ministers, mayors, and deputies.

The authors of the article urge Russian parliamentarians to pass a law which would make it binding upon top executives of the country, and leaders of state-run organisations to fill in declarations of income, which could prevent the emergence of corruption in the civil service system.

Kozyrev Says Russia To Join PFP After 20 Apr

LD0804164394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1528 GMT 8 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Andrey Serov]

[Text] Moscow April 8 TASS—Russia is getting ready to sign a framework document on its participation in NATO's Partnership for Peace [PFP] program after April 20, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev told member of the EC Commission Hans Van der Broek here today.

The documents are being finalized with due account of Russian peculiarities as a nuclear power.

The sides focused today on preparation of an agreement between Russia and the European Union. There are two problems to be solved. The first one, banks, has been settled at the experts' level. The other is more complicated as it concerns sales of nuclear fuel. Moscow is not satisfied with the quotas envisaged by the draft agreement.

The sides basically agree that it is time to finish preparations and sign the agreement.

Kostikov Suggests Linking PFP, G-7 Membership

AU0804082294 Paris AFP in English 0812 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow, April 8 (AFP)—Russia wants to link its joining the NATO Partnership for Peace [PFP] to joining the G-7 group of industrial nations, presidency spokesman Viacheslav Kostikov said.

"If we are invited into the political and military partnership, it would be logical to make an approach in the economic sphere," he told reporters. "Russia would like to join the G-7. Why not link the two problems," he added.

Kostikov Says 'Romantic Embrace' With West 'Over'

LD0804151394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1408 GMT 8 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow April 8 TASS—Press Secretary of the Russian president Vyacheslav Kostikov told a briefing here today that the Russian-Western "romantic embrace" is over.

"I think what has happened is that Russia, Europe and America have passed the stage of romanticism in post-totalitarian diplomacy when both sides embraced each other so tightly that national security interests were left aside," he said.

"Russia increasingly sees itself as a great power and it has started saying this loudly. Europe has understood that Russian interests will no longer dissolve in the interests of European diplomacy. At the same time, I would not say we are talking about a cooling of relations," noted Kostikov.

"I think it is good, it is right because it will save us from disappointments or even mistakes in the future and negotiations will have a sound pragmatic basis," he stressed.

Yeltsin Fails To Receive U.S. Congressmen

PM0704171694 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Apr 94 p 3

[Report by Aleksandr Shalnev: "Boris Yeltsin Did Not Receive U.S. Congressmen, But They Were Satisfied Anyway"]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin did not receive a delegation of U.S. congressmen who were supposed to meet with him on Wednesday 6 April.

The members of the delegation, headed by the leaders of the Democrats and Republicans in the House of Representatives, say that they are more than satisfied with the talk they had with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

But it has become known from sources behind the scenes that the delegation's plans did indeed include: "Meeting with Yeltsin—a meeting which did not take place for reasons not stated."

It is the first time such a thing has happened in the history of Russian-U.S. relations. Congressmen from the United States, on visting Moscow, regarded a meeting with our top leader as something that went almost without saying, and their expectations were never disappointed. On the other hand, you could count on the fingers of one hand the number of audiences granted to our parliamentary leaders by U.S. presidents.

Be that as it may, at the press conference at which the congressmen summed up their visit to Moscow it was again stated that support for reforms is in the long-term interests of both America and Russia.

In a brief conversation with me, Richard Gephardt, leader of the Democratic majority in the House of Representatives, was, however, rather evasive when asked when we can finally expect the lifting of all the restrictions dating back to the Cold War period which are hampering the active development of trade and economic cooperation between our countries. He reported that a legislative initiative will be presented at the current session of Congress lifting these restrictions, including the no longer relevant Jackson-Vanik amendment, now more than 20 years old. But Gephardt's remarks showed no certainty that the initiative will be approved at this session. Yet the next congressional

elections in the United States are due in November, in January next year the new Congress will assemble, and anything that has been proposed but not approved in the present session will automatically be annulled.

In other words, it will be necessary to start all over again. And that is a lengthy process. Incidentally, back in April 1993, at the Vancouver summit, Clinton solemnly promised our president "to tackle in the very near future" all the obstacles in the path of the development of our trade and economic relations.

According to Gephardt, "the Russian parliamentarians could learn some things from us." What things, I asked.

"We could tell them about the difficulties and disappointments we encounter and experience as legislators, about how often we are simply not able to do anything because we cannot get a majority. This happens in our Congress, where there are only two parties, unlike your multiparty parliament. And then we simply do nothing. But that is in the nature of democracy."

Yeltsin Given 'Old Draft' of Bases Document To Sign

PM0704155894 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Apr 94 p 3

[Report by Aleksandr Sychev under the general heading: "Russia Does Not Intend To Create Military Bases in Latvia. Diplomats Believe Boris Yeltsin Was Given the Wrong Document To Sign"]

[Text] "The agreements concluded between Russia and Lativa, including the agreement on the military facility at Skrunde, were approved by President Yeltsin. There have been no changes in our position," IZVESTIYA was told by Sergey Zotov, special envoy and head of the state delegation to the talks with Latvia.

"In the interstate agreements that have been initialed, the radar station at Skrunde is defined as a 'Russian military establishment under civilian control,' and it is stated that it cannot be 'endowed with the status of a military base,'" Zotov said.

According to information obtained by IZVESTIYA from various sources, the Russian Foreign Ministry does not know how the Skrunda radar station found its way into President Yeltsin's directive on the creation of military bases on the territory of CIS states. Especially since Latvia is not a member of the Commonwealth.

Diplomats rule out the existence of a political subtext to the presidential directive, and are inclined to think it is a question of an annoying technical error. In their opinion the president was given an old draft to sign, which had been circulating around the bureaucracy for a long time. The officials responsible for drafting it had not made the necessary amendments to the text.

People in the president's entourage, judging by Press Secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov's statement, are also inclined to think in terms of a "technical error" causing the furor which is threatening to wreck the accords that had been reached. They are studying the history of the error and considering how to avoid possible negative consequences.

Bases Not Possible Without Interstate Agreement

PM0704161894 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Apr 94 p 3

[Report by IZVESTIYA military correspondent Viktor Litovkin under the general heading: "Russia Does Not Intend To Create Military Bases in Latvia. Diplomats Believe Boris Yeltsin Was Given the Wrong Document To Sign"]

[Text] "All talk of turning our radar station at Skrunde into a military base is unfounded," I was told by Yelena Agapova, assistant to the Russian defense minister for relations with the public and the press.

A few days previously, the Defense Ministry Information and Press Directorate had refuted an ITAR-TASS report on this matter. Chief of General Staff Colonel General Mikhail Kolesnikov did not and could not have told the agency's correspondent about the transformation of the radar station into a military base. Russia had and has no such plans.

Nonetheless, statements by Russian Defense Minister Army General Pavel Grachev have repeatedly mentioned plans for the creation of 28 military bases outside the country's borders. Where is it proposed to put them?

The locations of some of them are already known, according to the minister's statements at press conferences: In Georgia, where under an interstate agreement—which alone can serve as the legal foundation for such bases—Russian military bases are to be located in Akhalkalaki, Batumi, where there are Russian divisions, Tbilisi (the headquarters of the Transcaucasus Group of Forces is there), and Poti, where Russian Navy ships can be stationed in the port zone. The total number of our troops will not exceed 25,000.

There are also troops of ours in Armenia, in the garrison of Gyumri (formerly Leninakan). They are also there under an interstate agreement between Yerevan and Moscow.

The locations of the other military bases are not yet known, since there are no interstate treaties concerning them. Without such treaties all talk of such bases, the military department believes, can only act as a basis for political speculation by various forces in certain states, as is happening in the case of the Skrunde radar station.

Foreign Ministry Says Base Proposal 'Surprise'

LD0704165194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1230 GMT 7 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Vladimir Taranov and Boris Krivoshey]

[Text] Moscow, 7 April—The appearance of the document on setting up Russian military bases in CIS countries and Latvia has come as a surprise to the Russian Foreign Ministry. The Russian Foreign Ministry did not take part in agreeing the document. Grigoriy Karasin, director of the press and information directorate of the Russian Foreign Ministry said this at a briefing today.

It is necessary to study the contents of the document, he said, and then we will give a really qualified assessment of its contents through diplomatic channels. The Russian diplomat did not rule out that explanations would possibly be provided in a different form.

Karasin stressed that he was against attaching unnecessary sensationalism to the matter. It should be sorted out, we should look at the document, at its wording, and who presented it, and after that we will promulgate our official point of view, he said.

According to him, the Russian ambassador in Riga was invited to the Latvian Foreign Ministry where he had talks on the matter. Military aspects of bilateral relations between Russia and Latvia were resolved and are reflected in relevant agreements initialed by the two countries. We confirm once again, the Russian diplomat said, that we adhere to the agreements. We regard Skrunde as a facility and not a military base, so there cannot be questions here.

Kozyrev: Russia Not Interested in Baltic Bases

LD0704203794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1715 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] At a press conference at the end of his talks with Swedish foreign minister Margareta af Ugglas in Pskov, Andrey Kozyrev declared that Russia was not interested in having military bases in Latvia, Lithuania or Estonia and that "no document to this end exists."

Kozyrev called for "Latvia signing as soon as possible a package of agreements with Russia so that bilateral relations could be significantly improved and Russian troops pulled out of that republic by August 31." He added, "we also expect Estonia which has serious problems with Russia to move towards the signing of agreements. The ball is now in the Estonians' court."

He said that Russia "would like to resolve the Russo-Estonian border issue through cooperation but we have had no positive signals from the Estonian authorities.

The Swedish foreign minister emphasized her country's view that the Russian troops had to be pulled out soon and completely from the Baltic countries. "We also welcome Russia's desire to have appropriate agreements with the Baltic countries. I hope that such agreements will be reached with both Latvia and Estonia. What is important is that it happens before August 31 which should become the final deadline for withdrawal of Russian troops."

In her words, Sweden was prepared to help Russia with housing for the servicemen leaving the Baltic countries but would like specific agreements on troop withdrawal come first.

Diplomat on Text, Signing of Yeltsin CIS Bases Order

MK0804070094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 8 Apr 94 p 1

[Vladimir Abarinov report in the "Scandal" column: "Yeltsin's Order on Military Bases in Latvia Does Not Exist. Andrey Kozyrev: 'We Are Being Tested for Firmness'"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] A highly placed Russian diplomat told SEGODNYA that the Foreign Affairs Ministry did not learn about the existence of the document on the Russian bases until the Russian ambassador in Riga was summoned to the Latvian Foreign Ministry for explanation. The copy of the paper in possession of the Russian delegation has been received from the Latvian Embassy in Moscow and has all the requisites except for Yeltsin's signature. The text says: "Agree with the proposal by the Russian Defense Ministry on creating on the territories of the CIS member states and the Latvian Republic of military bases of the Russian Federation Armed Forces to ensure the security of the Russian Federation and said states and also to test new arms and military equipment. The Russian Foreign Ministry, jointly with the Russian Defense Ministry and other Russian Federation departments concerned, are to hold talks on this question with the CIS member states and the Latvian Republic and to formalize the accords reached by corresponding documents." The paper, which, in the expression of a Russian diplomat, was "slipped in for signing" to the president, bears number 175-RP and is dated 5 April. [passage omitted]

Kostikov Explains Mistake on Skrunda Radar Station

LD0804150294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1412 GMT 8 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow April 8 TASS—Press Secretary of the Russian president Vyacheslav Kostikov explained the technical mistake in the document that allegedly makes possible the deployment of a military base in Latvia with a language confusion.

Kostikov told a briefing here today that the military sometimes call a base an object. Thus, the Skrunda Radar Station was named a base by mistake instead of an object.

"None has planned to build a military base, and the Latvian leadership was presented apologies in connection with the technical mistake," he said.

As for military bases in Commonwealth States, the Russian military presence there is intiated by the Commonwealth States themselves, stressed the presidential press secretary.

Latvian President's Moscow Visit Still On

LD0704231494 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1920 GMT 7 Apr 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] It appears that the visit by the Latvian President to Moscow will take place after all. Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Grigoriy Karasin has said that the preparations for this visit to Moscow have now entered the plane of practical actions. The plane of practical actions evidently means that the somewhat confused situation connected with the mistake in President Yeltsin's instructions about setting up military bases outside Russia, including in Latvia, is being resolved.

Defense Ministry Statement on Latvia Military Bases

LD0704152294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1330 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow April 7 TASS—ITAR-TASS received the following statement released by the Russian Defence Ministry on Thursday:

"In connection with the publication in the mass media of Order no.174-RP of April 5, 1994 of the president of the Russian Federation on Russian military bases on the territory of former Soviet republics, the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation considers it necessary to make the following statement.

"The Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation has never planned and is not planning to establish any military bases on the territory of Latvia, nor test there new weapons and military hardware. The document prepared by the Ministry of Defence together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs mentioned the establishment, on the basis of military units of the Russian Armed Forces stationed on the territory of former Soviet republics, of Russian military bases and facilities in the interests of ensuring the security of the Russian Federation and those states. It meant not the establishment of a military base, but the missile attack warning station in Skrunda, the negotiations on which are still underway with the Latvian side. The presidential order instructs the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Defence Ministry of Russia and other concerned ministries and departments to continue the negotiation process with the CIS member-states and Latvia on this matter."

Kozyrev Calls Estonia: Territorial Claims 'Unfounded'

LD0704190994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1827 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS special correspondents Boris Vlasov and Dmitriy Gorokhov]

[Text] Pskov 7 April, TASS—At a final stage of his stay in Pskov, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev visited on Thursday the "Kunichna Gora" check point on the Russian-Estonian border.

Public representatives from the frontier town of Pechory handed over to him an address in which they expressed an alarm in connection with Estonia's territorial claims on this ancient Russian locality and called the leadership to strengthen and improve conditions on the border.

Andrey Kozyrev called the territorial claims of Tallinn unfounded and stressed that Estonia, just as Russia, were recognized within the existing borders. Moscow, the foreign minister noted, is in the know about these problems and is closely watching them. It is necessary to strengthen the border, but at the same time there is no need to make it "impenetrable." Here, on the spot, Andrey Kozyrev said, an optimal regime should be determined and a formula found which will suit both sides.

The problems of the strengthening of the border and the troops withdrawal are exclusively issues of bilateral relations, but we are interested that these problems are known and understood by our neighbors in the region, the Russian foreign minister pointed out.

At the same time, Andrey Kozyrev noted, there are also problems of the rights of the Russian speaking population in Estonia. These issues are not exclusively the subject of the Russo-Estonian dispute. After all, there is international law and all-European norms which must be observed. We are raising this issue very insistently, the Russian foreign minister emphasised.

Estonian Talks Held in 'Unfavorable' Atmosphere

LD0704205894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1715 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Estonian Foreign Ministry's Vice-Chancellor Raul Malk described the atmosphere at the 18th round of Estonian-Russian talks completed in Moscow on Thursday as unfavorable.

Speaking a a press conference in Tallinn, he noted that Estonia did not expect special results from the talks, because the difference over the main issue, the withdrawal of Russian troops, was very serious. According to Malk, from the very beginning the Russian delegation took an ultimatum position, linking the withdrawal of

troops to giving residence permits to retired military pensioners and putting forward unjustified demands. "In essence, there have been no talks on military pensioners at all," he said.

At the same time, Malk characterized the talks on humanitarian issues as "the most fruitful." "This is especially evident compared to the previous rounds," he pointed out.

Addressing the border issues, Malk said that the prepared but not ratified agreement on support for border regions "had been assigned to history."

Malk dismissed allegations of the Russian side that two criminals who killed a Russian border guard on 1 April and wounded another two had come from Estonian territory and had returned there. "All these allegations were not confirmed," he said.

The delegation's secretary, Ago Tiima, who attended the press conference also denies press reports about alleged serious environmental pollution on the territory of the Russian military unit in Viimsi near Tallinn on April 1. He said that eight tonnes of mazut leaked into a ditch and the press described it as an ecological disaster.

Tiiman noted that on Monday the site of the accident was visited by officials of the Estonian Environmental Protection and Foreign Ministries. "What they saw of course is unpleasant, but it is not an ecological disaster," Tiiman said. "It would not be such a serious event in the republic if the Russian side had informed us at once and in detail about the accident," the diplomat said.

Kiev Delays Transfer of Strategic Bombers to Russia

LD0704193894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1715 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Russia's Chief Airforce Commander Petr Deinekin says no agreement has so far been reached on the transfer to Russia of part of the former Soviet Union's strategic bomber aircraft deployed in Ukraine. In an interview with INTERFAX on Thursday, he put the number of such missile carrying aircraft at 42 including 19 TU-160's and 23 TU-95 MC's.

The two countries are still at odds about the price. Kiev wants Russia to write off Rbl 700 Bn of its debt, but Moscow agrees to settle for less than a third of that amount.

Deinekin said the Russian Defense Ministry could easily order a new batch of aircraft for Rbl 700 Bn at home. He stressed that the Ukrainian bombers had been grounded for quite some time because of shortage of fuel and spare parts and extra spending would be needed to make them airworthy.

He regretted that Moscow's attempts to try to help Ukraine to denuclearize itself had failed to meet understanding from the Ukrainian Defense Ministry. At the same time, he hoped further talks will be held in an effort to reach compromise.

Ukraine Prepared To Trade Bombers

MK0804100094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 8 Apr 94 p 4

[Aleksandr Koretskiy report in the "Russian-Ukrainian Strategic Arms Talks" column: "Born to Fly, Without Kerosene They Cannot Even Crawl"]

[Text] Ukraine is ready to part not only with the nuclear weapons located on its territory but also with their delivery means. This much is clear from the start of confidential negotiations between Moscow and Kiev on the transfer to Russia of 42 Tu-95 MS's and Tu-160 strategic bombers that Ukraine inherited from the USSR. The fact that the talks are under way was yesterday confirmed by an informed source in the Russian Defense Ministry. Unlike Minsk and Alma-Ata [Almaty], however, which voluntarily ceded to Moscow all of their strategic weapons, Kiev intends not only to get rid of unwanted and costly to maintain toys, but also to get something in exchange.

Out of Ukraine's 42 strategic bombers, 19 are top-of-the-line Tu-160's (the aircraft was developed in 1975 as a counterbalance to the U.S. B-1B; it is inferior in combat load but superior in speed). The estimated cost of the Tu-160 is $250 million. The remaining 23 aircraft are Tu-95 MS's, second-generation strategic bombers. At present Ukraine's heavy aviation is located at air bases in Priluki, Uzin, and Ukrainsk.

The first reports about Ukraine's intention to sell these aircraft to Russia appeared in the Kiev press at the end of March. Among the first to raise this issue was the republic's Defense Minister Vitaliy Radetskyy, who proposed to sell the Tu-95 MS's and Tu-160's, "but not for money." He backed up his statement by the fact that "Ukraine's air space is too cramped for this class of aircraft." However, the explanation for the "generosity" of Mr. Radetskyy, who for more than two years has been reluctant to part with heavy aviation in spite of the cramped air space, is trivial. In the context of an energy crisis the average annual flying time in the Ukrainian Air Force does not exceed 35 to 40 hours. Meanwhile analogous figures in the U.S., FRG, and Dutch Air Forces are 160-180 hours, and in the USSR they were between 130 and 150 hours. Ukrainian Air Force simulators, on the other hand, do not give the pilots the full sensation of flight.

The reason for Kiev's "submission" is the defection of complete combat crews to Russia and the impossibility of maintaining the Tu's in combat readiness. The wish to obtain in exchange "components for front and army aircraft and also fuel," however, as expressed by Mr.

Radetskyy, will hardly meet with Moscow's understanding. Just like an alternative proposal to exchange the bombers for Tu-134 and Tu- 154 civil aircraft in a 1:3 proportion.

As a source in the Russian Defense Ministry told KOMMERSANT-DAILY's correspondent, Moscow views as the most acceptable "settlement" option the use of the heavy aircraft to cover Kiev's indebtedness on natural gas supplies. Because the talks began only two or three days ago, however, it is too soon to talk about any variant of a deal on strategic aviation. As for the "gas" option, Gazprom has not yet given its consent. Indeed, why would it want strategic bombers?

Kiev's aspiration to relieve itself of an unbearable burden is understandable. What is not is why Moscow has engaged in this strange horse trading. After all, the redeployment of Tu-95's and Tu-160's to Russia will call for their subsequent conversion as "non-nuclear" (so that the START II provisions on strategic aviation are observed), which will demand substantial expenses not envisioned in the budget. It would be easy to invite Kiev, "in a brotherly manner," simply to give the planes away for free. Even so, the Russian Defense Ministry has made it clear that so far they are not going to pay for this hardware. Actually, there is nothing to pay with.

The Strategic Component of the Russian and U.S. Air Forces

Russia (CIS):

52 Tu-95 K aircraft. Capable of carrying up to eight cruise missiles to a distance of up to 12,800 km.

63 Tu-95 MS aircraft. Capable of carrying up to 16 cruise missiles to a distance of up to 18,000 km. Before February 1994, 40 aircraft of this class were located on the territory of Kazakhstan and 23 are still based in Ukraine.

23 to 25 Tu-160 aircraft (exact number unknown). Capable of carrying 12 cruise missiles to a distance of up to 11,000 km; 19 aircraft of this class are based in Priluki. The last such aircraft was manufactured by the Kazan aircraft plant in August 1992.

The United States:

95 B-52H Stratofortress aircraft. Capable of carrying up to 20 cruise missiles to a distance of up to 16,000 km.

95 B-1B Lancer aircraft. Capable of carrying up to 16 dumb [svobodnopadayushchiye] bombs to a distance of up to 19,800 km.

20 B-2 Northrop ("Stealth") aircraft. Capable of carrying between eight and 16 cruise missiles to a distance of up to 11,000 km. The first five aircraft of this class were to be adopted by the U.S. Air Force for service in December 1993.

Air Force Chief on Talks

MK0804065094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 8 Apr 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Strategic Bomber Accord With Ukraine Not Reached"]

[Text] Petr Deynekin, commander-in-chief of the Russian Federation Air Force, has intimated that no "mutually acceptable agreement" on the turning over to Russia of strategic bombers stationed on Ukraine's territory has been reached so far. According to him, the stumbling block at the talks is the "astronomical" sum the Ukrainian side is asking for the transfer of the bombers. Ukraine wishes to pay around 700 billion rubles of its debt to Russia in 42 aircraft. In the Russian side's view, the figure should be some 200 billion rubles.

Official Denies Aid Used To Pressure Armenia, U.S.

LD0704190194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1620 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Vladimir Taranov and Boris Krivoshey]

[Text] Moscow, 7 Apr—The Russian State Customs Committee has exempted from duty deliveries of 2,000 tonnes of seed grain purchased with U.S. government funds and being sent from Russia to Armenia. By forgoing customs duties to the value of $750,000, Russia has thus participated in a joint humanitarian act with the United States. This was stated at a briefing today by Grigoriy Karasin, director of the press and information department of the Russian Foreign Ministry.

The Russian diplomat noted that there is some perplexity over claims by some mass media analysts that Russia intends to prevent the passage to Armenia of humanitarian grain in order to put political pressure on Yerevan and Washington.

Russia To Cooperate in Turkmen Gas Pipeline Project

LD0704134394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 Apr 94 p 3

[Vladimir Kuleshov report: "Yuriy Shafranik Will Help Build Turkmenia-Iran-Turkey-Europe Gas Pipeline"]

[Text] Ashkhabad [Ashgabat]—An international conference in Ashkhabad regarding the organization of oil and gas exports from Turkmenia [Turkmenistan], in which government delegations from Russia, Iran, Turkey, and Kazakhstan and representatives of U.S. and Argentine business circles took part, has decided the route of a gas pipeline linking Turkmenia, Iran, Turkey, and Europe. An agreement has also been signed between the Turkmen and Russian Governments on cooperation in developing the fuel and energy complexes.

With Russian Fuel and Energy Minister Yuriy Shafranik's participation in this meeting any suspicion that Russia would shun the development of Turkmenia's fuel and energy complexes, primarily the laying of a transcontinental gas pipeline from Turkmenia to Europe, has been dispelled. Two years ago, after signing the bilateral agreement on friendship and cooperation between Turkmenistan and Russia, President Boris Yeltsin told journalists:

"Turkmenia and Russia today have the richest stocks of natural gas in the CIS. However, the supply of gas can be increased. We discussed this issue with Saparmurad Niyazov and have come to the conclusion that cooperation in this sphere is of mutual benefit. Russia is willing to invest the necessary funds in the construction of a gas pipeline, which will make it possible to transport Turkmen gas to Europe...."

This was reaffirmed by Yuriy Shafranik today: "We will try to help Turkmenia. Cooperation will enable our states to cooperate on the European market in the future without infringing one another's interests."

Representatives of the Turkmen, Iranian, Russian, and Turkish Governments agreed to set up an interstate council chaired by President Niyazov with regard to organizing oil and gas exports from Turkmenia to world markets.

The draft documents will be examined at a meeting of the council members in Tehran 1 July this year.

Talks With Belarus Encounter 'Great Difficulties'

LD0704224794 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 7 Apr 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The talks between Russia and Belarus on uniting the monetary systems of the two countries are proceeding with great difficulties. The regular round of talks was held in Moscow 4-7 April and failed to fully resolve the main disagreements.

Moscow Hails Observance of Serb-Croat Cease-Fire

LD0704193594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1840 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Boris Krivoshey and Vladimir Taranov]

[Text] Moscow 7 April, TASS—Russia welcomes strict observance of the cease-fire agreement signed in Zagreb on 29 March by delegations of the Republic of Croatia and Serbs living on territories under U.N. control, spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry Grigoriy Karasin told a briefing on Thursday.

The fact that the warring factions are precisely following the schedule of troop withdrawal to new disengagement lines, set by the cease-fire agreement, makes it possible to hope that both sides will fulfill their commitments in full and on time, the Russian diplomat noted.

Official Says Srebrenica 'Formula' May Work in Goradze

LD0704222694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1536 GMT 7 Apr 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature by diplomatic correspondents Dmitriy Voskoboynikov, Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy and others]

[Text] Russia's Foreign Ministry has closely followed the development of events in and around Gorazde, where clashes between Bosnian Serbs and Muslims flared up once again, a high-ranking Russian diplomat told Interfax on Thursday.

According to him, Bosnian Serbs reacted to Muslim acts of provocation in the area of Gorazde "inadequately." "The Serbs made a four-kilometer incursion from the disengagement line, and invaded several villages, whose Muslim population took shelter in the city of Gorazde which is controlled by Muslim units," the diplomat said.

As he said, the situation is aggravated by the circumstance that in Gorazde the Muslims are holding about 50 Serb prisoners of war, whom the field commanders of Bosnian Serbs are seeking to free at any cost.

On Friday, the official from Russia's Foreign Ministry said, high-ranking representatives of Bosnian Serbs and Muslims are to meet in Sarajevo's airport to discuss the possible ways to reach a settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina as a whole, and in Gorazde in particular.

According to Interfax's interviewee, the formula that helped to ease tensions in and around another Bosnian city, Srebrenica, could be used in the area of Gorazde. "Stipulated in an agreement reached between Bonian Serbs, Muslims and the command of the U.N. protection forces, the formula provides for withdrawing the armed units of both sides from the line of confrontation, demilitarizing the "buffer" zone and deploying U.N. peace-keeping forces there," he said.

This week-end or early next week the special envoy of the Russian president, Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin, may make a trip to the Balkans, the diplomat said. "We are working in two directions—Bosnia and Krajina. It's not surprising therefore that the program of his trip includes Zagreb and Belgrade," he added.

According to Interfax's interviewee, in Moscow on Wednesday Churkin conferred with one of the leaders of Bosnian Serbs, Momcilo Krajisnik, and discussed with him the situation that had emerged in the wake of the Washington agreements signed to form a Muslim-Croat federation in Bosnia-Herzegovina,and subsequently establish a confederation between it and Croatia. "The two men discussed the role Bosnian Serbs could play

under these agreements. Russia wants the lawful rights of the third nation making up the state of Bosnia- Herzegovina—Bosnian Serbs—to be observed," he stressed.

Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin, special envoy of the Russian president, will fly to Belgrade Sunday, April 10 to meet with Serbia's leaders, Grigoriy Karasin, a spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry, said at a briefing in Moscow Thursday.

Karasin added that Churkin would meet with Croatian leaders in Zagreb Monday and the next day would attend talks on the economic issues of the settlement that would be held in the Russian embassy to Croatia.

Karasin did not rule out the possibility that Churkin would also visit Sarajevo.

Churkin Meets Bosnian Serb Assembly Chairman

LD0704224594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1725 GMT 7 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Boris Krivoshey and Vladimir Taranov]

[Text] Moscow April 7 TASS—Vitaliy Churkin, Russian president's special representative and deputy foreign minister, held consultations on Wednesday with Momcilo Krajisnik, chairman of the Skupstina (Federal Assembly) of the Serbian Republic in Bosnia, on problems of the Bosnian settlement. This was reported by Grigoriy Karasin, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman, at a briefing here on Thursday.

According to Grigoriy Karasin, on April 10 Vitaliy Churkin is due to fly to Belgrade where he is expected to meet with the Serbian leadership. On Monday, April 11, the special envoy of the Russian president is due to meet in Zagreb with the Croatian leadership, and on the following day Vitaliy Churkin will take part in the beginning of talks on economic aspects of the settlement which will be held at the Russian embassy.

It is possible that in the course of the forthcoming trip President Boris Yeltsin's special envoy will also visit Sarajevo, Grigoriy Karasin pointed out.

Warns on Serb 'Extremism'

LD0704210594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1853 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin has urged the Russia's Choice parliamentary group to support the government's decision to join NATO's Partnership for Peace program.

Russia's membership in the program would "determine a model on the basis of which relations between Russia and the West will be built in future" and would mean that Russia had opted for cooperation instead of isolation, Churkin said at a meeting of the group, to which he was invited to give the Foreign Ministry's position on the current developments in the former Yugoslavia.

Parliament this week put on its agenda a motion for lifting economic sanctions against rump Yugoslavia, Croatia's Serb Krajina and the Serb Republic in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The motion was made by the parliamentary group of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's nationalist Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

Asked whether the LDP group's pro-Serb line had any impact on the Foreign Ministry's position, Churkin said the ministry "has had to pursue its political line under considerable political pressure since the times of the former Supreme Soviet." But internal political struggles have no effect on the ministry's course, which enables Russia to make active efforts to settle the Yugoslav crisis "together with the world community and without conflicting with the world community," Churkin said.

He said unconditional support for Serbia would mean support for Serb extremism, which would be "dangerous for the entire Serb people." All parties to the conflict are southern Slavs, so Russia is not interested in the Serbs alone, Churkin said. Besides, Russia is a "multinational and multireligious state," something the Foreign Ministry took into account when sending an additional contingent for the Sarajevo peacekeeping force. Part of the contingent were members of Muslim communities in Russia, he said.

Yugoslav Assembly Delegation Arrives in Moscow

LD0704182494 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1501 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow, 7 Apr (TANJUG)—A Yugoslav Assembly delegation led by Radoman Bozovic, the president of the Chamber of Citizens, arrived in Moscow this afternoon at the invitation of Ivan Rybkin, the president of the Russian parliaments's lower house. The delegation is to have talks at the Russian parliament with Ivan Rybkin, with leaders of some parties, and other Russian officials.

Parliamentarian and other forms of cooperation will be discussed during the talks, as well as the situation in the former Yugoslavia and ways of resolving it. It is expected that initiatives announced by the Russian parliament in connection with the lifting of sanctions against Yugoslavia will also be discussed.

This is the first visit by a Yugoslav parliamentary delegation since the sanctions were introduced.

Rybkin Meets With Delegation

LD0704212794 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1941 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow, 7 Apr (TANJUG)—The sanctions against Yugoslavia have become meaningless and should be abolished as soon as possible. This is the main conclusion reached during the talks in Moscow this

evening between Ivan Rybkin, chairman of the Russian State Duma, and members of the Yugoslav Assembly delegation led by Radoman Bozovic, speaker of the Chamber of Citizens.

The delegation arrived in Moscow today at the invitation of the Russian parliament. This is the first official visit of the Yugoslav parliamentary delegation to a foreign country—at the invitation of partners—since the introduction of the sanctions against Yugoslavia.

The Yugoslav delegation includes: Borisav Jovic, Milan Komnenic, Milan Gajovic and Milan Rochen, Yugoslav charge d'affaires in Moscow.

The talks focused on parliamentary cooperation, the situation in the two countries and in former Yugoslavia, as well as on possibilities for ending the conflict and abolishing the sanctions.

In a statement for Yugoslav reporters after the meeting, Ivan Rybkin said the sanctions against Yugoslavia are unacceptable—this being his personal opinion and the opinion of the majority of Russian deputies. In his words it is first necessary to secure peace and this is the order of things which must be respected. Rybkin said that the conflict must be resolved in a peaceful way and that many international factors are involved in this process.

In his statement for the journalists Radoman Bozovic said that the Russian State Duma is the place where the essence of the Yugoslav crisis and the pointlessness of the sanctions are best understood. He added that only a just peace can be permanent and stable. He is convinced that the sanctions are not only pointless but also that they fail to help resolve the crisis in Yugoslavia—they are harmful and suit the advocates of war.

We were pleased to hear, Bozovic said, that all deputies' groups share this opinion and that they have influence on the Russian Government and the international public concerning the sanctions, which are punishing a nation and encouraging those who favor continuing the war.

The Yugoslav parliamentary delegation, which will spend several days in Moscow, will resume talks with Russian officials tomorrow.

Russia, Hungary Sign Protocol on AES Construction

LD0804041694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1342 GMT 7 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Marina Barinova]

[Text] Moscow, 7 Apr—A protocol signed by the Governments of the Russian Federation and the Hungarian Republic provides for the construction of an AES [Nuclear Electric Power Station] in Hungary.

"In accordance with the protocol, Russia will also supply Hungary with nuclear fuel," Georgiy Kaurov, head of the Russian Ministry of Atomic Energy's [Minatom] Information and Public Relations Department, told an ITAR-TASS correspondent. "Furthermore, our organizations will begin to receive nuclear fuel exhausted at the Paks AES after a five-year interval at the station. We cannot refuse to accept it. That would mean breaking obligations and undermining Russia's international reputation as a reliable partner."

"Let me explain", Kaurov added. "Russia receives exhausted fuel and not radioactive waste from Hungary. The two things are not at all the same. During processing, useful components are given off that are used as repeat fuel for an AES. Russian Minatom enterprises have highly effective and ecologically sound processing technology for nuclear fuel. I would also point out that the protocol guarantees a stable hard currency income that allows resources to be channelled into rehabilitating polluted sites and implementing programs for handling radioactive waste."

Kozyrev Ends Talks in Sweden; Returns to Moscow

LD0704205994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1956 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Vlasov]

[Text] Pskov 7 April, TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev met on Thursday with his Swedish counterpart Margaretha af Ugglas in the town of Pskov to consider possiblities of revitalizing the economy of Russia's northwestern region.

The Pskov region attracted the attention of Swedish businessmen by its rich natural resources and developed industry. They also hope to benefit considerably by taking part in rehabilitation of the region's ailing agrarian sector.

After discussing ways of improving the Pskov region's economy by joint efforts and seeing the sights of the old Russian town, Mrs. af Ugglas left for Sweden.

Meanwhile, her Russian counterpart visited the Pechora segment of the Russian-Estonian border, where he was informed about the construction of border facilities and about the current situation on the border which has been deteriorating with every passing day.

Senior officials of the regional administration told the Russian foreign minister that they would like to improve ties with the Baltic republics rather than to tighten a border regime. Nevertheless, Kozyrev said, it would be better to reinforce the border with technical means than with bodies of Russian soldiers.

On Thursday night, the Russian foreign minister flew off back to Moscow.

Yeltsin's Envoy Speaks on Russia's Role in Middle East

LD0704175894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1534 GMT 7 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Yuriy Tyssovskiy]

[Text] Moscow April 7 TASS—"The invigoration of Russia's role in the Middle East and recent intensive contacts by Russian diplomacy in that region of the world are connected with the critical situation into which it has been plunged by the tragic events in Hebron that claimed the lives of dozens of Palestinians," the Russian President's Envoy to the Middle East Viktor Posuvalyuk said.

Speaking at a news briefing at the Foreign Ministry Press Centre in Moscow on Thursday, Posuvalyuk said that some Russian and foreign media reports have distorted the reasons for Moscow's growing role in the Middle East. He stressed that its main aim is to save the peace process and facilitate the resumption of the PLO-Israeli and Arab-Israeli talks.

The envoy said considerable progress has been reached in this sphere. Palestinians and Israelis resumed talks in Cairo. Work is underway to prepare talks between Israel and Arabs. He denied that the peace process has acquired some element of competitiveness with the United States. The Middle East theme will continue to dominate our foreign policy, he added.

He admitted that there have been disruptions in the work of the co-sponsors of the Middle East peace process, but they were not caused by malicious intent of either side. This is a new business on which no textbooks have been written yet. The co-sponsors must act extremely carefully while looking for ways of reaching peace between Arabs and Israelis, he said.

Posuvalyuk did not deny that the U.S. and Russia are pursuing their own interests in the region, but added that this should not affect their efforts to help restore peace in the Middle East.

He said that Russian and American officials will hold consultations in Washington to attain a greater degree of coordination in their joint work.

Envoy Further Comments

LD0804104394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0902 GMT 8 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Yuriy Tyssovskiy]

[Text] Moscow April 8 TASS—Viktor Posuvalyuk, the Russian president's special envoy, tackling problems linked with the settlement of the Middle East issue, told Russian and foreign journalists at the press centre of the Russian Foreign Ministry here today about the results of his recent trips to Syria, Jordan and Israel.

"The Near East is really near for us, Russians," he said. "This explains, in particular, the recent intensity of Russian diplomatic contacts in the region. During his visit to Damascus, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov handed to President Hafiz Al-Asad a message from Boris Yeltsin. We regard Syria's role in the Middle East peace process as a key factor, without which any contacts between the parties to the dragged out conflict would be one-sided, to say the least. Al-Asad's personal authority as a political leader is very high. Moscow's ties with Damascus are traditional and our attraction to each other remains very strong even though our relations had made little headway in the recent period."

Posuvalyuk stressed that the new Russo-Syrian relations were not beginning from scratch and that they had a rich background. He laid stress on the continuing dialogue and the development of economic relations that are based on new principles. "Al-Asad," the presidential envoy said, "agreed with us that the present level of relations did not meet the expectations of the two countries and that they should be further developed in all directions."

The diplomat said that the Syrian president welcomed Russia's active role in the effort to settle the Middle East problem. The views of the two countries on the approaches to this problem are similar. They believe that they should be based on the principle: Territories in exchange for peace".

Posuvalyuk met King Husayn of Jordan and Crown Prince Hassan in Amman. "It is gratifying," he said, "That the Jordanian leadership also assesses correctly the Russian policy in the Middle East. Jordan has made more progress in talks with Israel than the other Arab states. But the peace process calls for synchronous progress and King Husayn is well aware of it. He is fully dedicated to the achievement of an all-embracing settlement.

The presidential envoy met Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres during his visit to Israel. They assured the Russian representative that they were ready to exert every effort to resume the talks on Palestinian autonomy on the basis of the "Gaza-Jericho-today" plan. "During our talks," Posuvalyuk said, "we arrived at the conclusion that Russia's vigorous efforts in the Middle East are conducive for the peace process, and the Israeli side welcomed them. We also discussed preparations for Rabin's visit to Moscow."

Posuvalyuk especially stressed the importance of this visit and also of Yasir 'Arafat's trip to Moscow on April 19. "The Moscow meetings of the two leaders, who are displaying political wisdom and perspicacity, should be regarded as new links in the chain of events contributing to the peace process," he said.

Foreign Ministry Condemns 'Terrorist Act' in 'Afula

LD0704190794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1715 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] "With deep bitterness and indignation," Moscow received the reports on the attack on Israeli citizens in the city of 'Afula. "We harshly condemn this terrorist act, which led to human victims and express our condolences to the families of those killed," the head of the information and press department of the Russian Foreign Ministry, Grigory Karasin, told a briefing in Moscow Thursday.

Karasin said "the event again raises the need to immediately carry out the measures to ensure the safety of Palestinian civilians in the occupied territories agreed on at the Palestinian-Israeli talks."

"Russia proceeds from the fact that this terrorist act should not distract Palestinians and Israelis from their main goal, this being to continue negotiations on the temporary introduction of Palestinian self-government on the occupied territories in accordance with the Declaration of Principles," Karasin was quoted as saying. "Once again, we call on both sides to show the maximum restraint, self-control and political will to achieve mutually acceptable agreements within the framework of the Middle East peace process."

Russia, Iraq Preparing To Resume Economic Cooperation

LD0704201594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1822 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Report by BUSINESS-TASS]

[Text] Moscow 7 April, TASS—Iraqi delegation headed by Adnan Abdul Majid Alexander-Ani [name as received], adviser to the Iraqi president in the rank of a minister, ended its talks in Moscow on Thursday on the resumption of trade and economic, and scientific-technical cooperation between Russia and Iraq after the U.N. Security Council lifts its sanctions in respect of this country.

The iraqi delegation met with representatives of several Russian ministries and departments. In the course of the talks both sides discussed a number of issues connected with the development of mutual ties in such branches as the oil and gas industry, electric power engineering, metallurgy, production of chemical goods, irrigation and agriculture, construction and reconstruction of terminals, as well as the expansion of trade at the post-sanction period.

Both sides reached an agreement about sending Russian experts to Iraq to specify and agree on a list of concrete objects and technical data.

In addition, the two sides agreed to hold in Moscow the first meeting of the Russo-Iraqi Commission on Trade, and Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation.

Gas Supplies to Turkey Increased

LD0704220894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1359 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Russia has granted Turkey's request to bring the annual volume of natural gas supplies up to 10.5 billion cubic meters by 1998. 2.5 billion cubic meters of this volume are to be used by the heat-and-power plant to be built in Turkey under Russian project. In addition, the two sides began to consider a project for building Turkey's first nuclear-power plant with Russia's direct participation. This might involve equipment supplies worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

These and other issues concerning business cooperation between Russia and Turkey were discussed in detail at the session held on Tuesday and Wednesday in Moscow by the joint intergovernmental commission on trade and economic cooperation. The session was chaired by Russia's Minister for external economic relations, Oleg Davydov, and by the Turkish Minister for construction and population centers, Onur Kumbaracibasi.

The Turkish minister informed participants in the session of his country's willingness to increase the worth of its requests for the purchases of special property in Russia to 600 million dollars. However this can happen only if Russia agrees to supply Turkey with 260-million-dollar worth of helicopters and other military equipment to repay Russia's debt to Turkey which amounts to 320 million dollars.

As Interfax learned from a reliable source close to government circles, a tentative agreement on such supplies has been reached. However initially their volume will be somewhat lower—60 million dollars.

Participants in the session paid great attention to the ways to expand bilateral cooperation in the area of conversion, investment and power engineering. They noted with satisfaction that the turnover between the two countries grew rapidly and reached 2 billion dollars last year.

Speaking at the ceremony of signing the final documents, Russia's Minister for external economic relations, Oleg Davydov, said that in the current year the volume of Russian-Turkish trade may more than double and surpass the level reached in Russia's trade with the USA.

Environment Minister on Radioactive Dumping at Sea

OW0704144994 Moscow Radio Moscow in Japanese 1107 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Viktor Ivanovich Danilov-Danilyan, Russian minister of protection of the environment and natural resources, held talks with Japanese Ambassador to Russia Koji Watanabe on 4 April. In the talks, the minister stated that a decision on dumping of liquid radioactive wastes into the sea should be made only by the Russian Government, and that the Maritime Kray

administration has no authority to independently decide on the issue. Minister Danilov- Danilyan made the remarks in response to Ambassador Watanabe's concern over Japanese media reports that the Maritime Kray administration seems to be preparing to authorize additional dumping of liquid radioactive wastes into the Sea of Japan.

In proposing that Japan provide financial and technological assistance to Russia at an opportune time, Minister Danilov-Danilyan stated that it would be possible for Russia to completely prevent the dumping of liquid radioactive wastes into the sea if it can construct temporary tanks for storing the radioactive wastes in the maritime region with Japanese cooperation. In the meeting with Ambassador Watanabe on 4 April, Minister Danilov-Danilyan highly appraised Japan's cooperative position in the field of dealing with nuclear wastes. Moreover, the minister assured that Russia would conduct a thorough environmental survey at storage tanks for liquid radioactive wastes as well as facilities for solidifying these wastes.

No Policy Change After Hosokawa's Resignation

LD0804103594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0837 GMT 8 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Moscow April 8 ITAR-TASS—The resignation of the Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa is Japan's internal affair. The Moscow policy of developing comprehensive relations with Japan remains unchanged, a ranking official of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs told ITAR-TASS today.

He stressed that these relations will continue to develop on the basis of the Tokyo declaration signed after the Russo-Japanese summit last October.

The Tokyo declaration outlined the strategic perspective for the development of all-round ties between the two countries.

Russia Backs South African Law Enforcement

LD0804103094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0908 GMT 8 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Denis Perkin]

[Text] Moscow April 8 TASS—"Russia backs the recent steps of the South African Government to enforce law and order. But these measures may prove insufficient without a long-term political agreement," a representative of the Russian Foreign Ministry stated at the ministry's press centre here today.

The developments in the Republic of South Africa are now in the focus of world public opinion: less than three weeks are left before the first universal parliamentary elections in the country. "All the world regards this event as a turning point in the history of South Africa, as a landmark after which the country will become a full-fledged member of the community of democratic states," the representative noted.

"In the meantime, the election campaign has brought the situation to a head in several parts of South Africa," the diplomat stated. "The political forces that are unable to win popularity among the electorate are becoming increasingly aggressive. They intend to boycott the elections and to prevent normal voting on the territories under their control," he added. The diplomat believes that "such a tactic actually leads to a break-up of the Republic of South Africa and threatens the society by an open armed confrontation frought with unpredictible consequences for the country an the entire region".

The representative of the Russian Foreign Ministry expressed the hope that the meeting among leaders of the conflicting sides, scheduled for saturday, would be constructive. The Russian Foreign Ministry expects "the meeting to adopt a firm commitment of all its participants to contribute by every means at their disposal to the free expression of the will of the South African electors on the entire territory of the country".

Political Issues

Yeltsin To Meet Doctors During Visit to Spain

LD0804112594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0940 GMT 8 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow April 8 TASS—President Boris Yeltsin will see doctors in Barcelona during his upcoming visit to Spain next week, but it is not clear whether the president wants to undergo a medical check-up or just thank the doctors who had cured him after an air accident in 1990.

Presidential spokesman Vyacheslav Kosikov told reporters on Friday that Yeltsin will see the doctors who operated on his back hurt when the plane made an emergency landing.

"I cannot say whether it will be a consultation or a gesture of gratitude to them", Kostikov said. The doctors had examined the Russian president in Moscow last September. Kostikov said that in Barcelona Yeltsin also plans to visit Olympic sites.

Doctor Denies Yeltsin Cirrhosis

PM0604150094 Barcelona LA VANGUARDIA in Spanish 31 Mar 94 p 7

[Europa Press report: "Barcelona Hospital Denies That Yeltsin Has Cirrhosis"]

[Text] Barcelona—Barcelona Hospital medical director Carles Humet has stated that he has no evidence that Russian President Boris Yeltsin is suffering from cirrhosis of the liver, and added that although he will be coming to Barcelona on his coming official visit to Spain, he does not intend to undergo a medical checkup at that hospital.

Boris Yeltsin was twice treated for back pain by a medical team from that hospital—first at the Barcelona Hospital and later in Moscow. Dr. Humet stated that he does not deem it necessary for Yeltsin to be given a medical checkup in Barcelona, "since the doctors treating him in Moscow are sufficiently competent." Humet added that "we know that he is coming to Barcelona, but there are no plans for him to have a medical checkup. He has not requested this, and we do not believe that it is necessary. Moreover, it makes no sense to plan a visit so far in advance." The doctor stressed: "We have been denying this (the checkup) for days. Now is not the time to start speculating whether or not he will come."

The Barcelona Hospital medical director added that Boris Yeltsin has asked to see personally some of the doctors who treated him, but not for medical reasons—just out of friendship.

With respect to the reports published about the possibility that Yeltsin is suffering from cirrhosis of the liver, Humet said that "we have no evidence that he has cirrhosis. At least, the last time we visited him (in September 1993), he did not have cirrhosis."

Humet added that if Boris Yeltsin had any problem with his back or liver, "he would not wish to be treated in Barcelona, because greater publicity would be given to the matter here, and everybody would know about it. Moreover, he can be treated in Moscow with the same guarantees."

The first time that Boris Yeltsin was treated at the Barcelona Hospital was around three years ago, during a visit by the Russian president to Barcelona. Yeltsin felt unwell, and was taken to that hospital, where he underwent an operation for a slipped disk. The second occasion was in Moscow at the beginning of September 1993, when Yeltsin again felt discomfort and pain in the lumbar region, and was treated by the same medical team, which went to the Russian capital, although this time an operation was not necessary.

In addition, the Russian Consulate in Barcelona has neither confirmed nor denied the possibility that Boris Yeltsin will undergo a medical checkup in Barcelona.

Yeltsin: Civic Agreement To Be Signed 28 Apr

PM0804143594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Apr 94 First Edition p 1

["Exclusive" interview with Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin by unidentified RIA-NOVOSTI correspondent, "especially for ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA": "Boris Yeltsin: To Achieve Accord"]

[Text] Russia's President Boris Yeltsin has given an exclusive interview to an RIA-NOVOSTI correspondent:

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] Boris Nikolayevich, how is the work on the Agreement progressing?

[Yeltsin] The work on the Agreement on Civil Peace is entering its final stage. Its concept, its basic provisions, and the mechanism for its implementation have been agreed. Representatives of diverse political streams have been participating in the document's preparation, and right from the very first stage at that. Representatives of State Duma factions are playing an active part. The draft has now been released to the mass media and each citizen can see it for himself.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] What, in your opinion, will our country gain from the signing of this Agreement?

[Yeltsin] First of all, it should mark Russia's entry in a period of political stability.

This is extremely important now. The situation in our country remains complex, and our own experience shows that it can be easily destabilized. We face a

multitude of problems and we need to find a solution to each and every one of them, we need to find mutual understanding. If the Agreement materializes, we will acquire guidelines as to how this should be done.

Society will acquire clear-cut criteria to appraise the actions of all political forces, including the extremist forces. This will act as a powerful restraint on those who preach the principle of "all is allowed."

It is, of course, by no means easy to prepare a strong document—which is exactly what Russia needs now. Especially in a country like ours, where the ideology of struggle dominated for many years on end. The importance of the work on the Agreement is that much greater. I will do everything to complete it so as to achieve accord in society. I will meet with various political forces, parliamentary factions and committees, and public figures primarily because the Agreement on Civil Peace is a condition governing the subsequent steps toward strengthening Russian statehood, as outlined in the Message.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] When do you think the Agreement will be ready?

[Yeltsin] I expect that the work will be finished by the end of April. It is scheduled for signing 28 April.

Yeltsin Aide Against 'Compromise'

LD0704214194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1359 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Head of the Yeltsin administration's information department Petr Filippov believes that the spectrum of political forces involved in fleshing out a civic peace pact must be limited. In an interview with Interfax on Thursday, he said it made no sense to try to involve such hardline opposition members as those granted amnesty recently in work over the draft.

"If these people say they will agree to sign pact under their own terms, there can be no question of consensus with them," Filippov said. "I cannot really see how it will be possible to sign a peace pact with a party like Barkashov's," he added.

The official said that "if there is a certain group of people who uphold extremist views, this does not mean that society must seek a compromise with them." The question is one of opening dialogue between the government and a civilized opposition, Filippov believes.

Rutskoy Criticizes Accord Idea

PM0704154394 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Apr 94 pp 1,4

[Interview with former Russian Federation Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy by Tatyana Romanenkova and Aleksey Vorobyev; place, date not given: "...Faith and Hope Should Be Given to the Living"]

[Excerpts] [PRAVDA] Aleksandr Vladimirovich, it is six months since the tragic events in Moscow in October 1993, since the barbaric bombardment of the Russian House of Soviets. The majority of our fellow citizens have already managed to work out who was the criminal during those days and who emerged as the fatherland's genuine defender. How would you assess these events against the backdrop of our country's history and how far, in your view, has the development of our civil society, and of democracy in Russia in general, been put back?

[Rutskoy] First of all the events of those days are a disgrace for us all. A disgrace for the nation. When the people stop considering themselves a nation, they become a population, a large group of private individuals, a crowd which can be manipulated at will and tricked at every turn. On the other hand, when people live with self-respect, aware that each person is an individual representing a great nation and a citizen of a great state, they will never allow such a thing to happen. They will simply not permit anyone to exceed their authority or that of the Constitution. Unfortunately, this did happen here. The citizen's respect for his state was trampled on, shot to pieces. People were broken. Therefore, this was, alas, nothing but a tragedy for this great nation. [passage omitted]

[PRAVDA] The idea of an accord is being discussed widely in society today. It is noticeable that a few people are attempting to use this exclusively for their own mercenary ends, and a section of the presidential team sees the signing of such an agreement more or less as an oath of loyalty to B. Yeltsin personally. Is there nevertheless any chance of some kind of national accord in society today?

[Rutskoy] We have been talking about civil accord since February 1992, when the "Civic Union" was formed. Its original slogan was civil accord. In other words, the creation of conditions in which each citizen is clearly aware of the country's aims, which tasks will be carried out, and what each person will get from this. At that time this idea was not successfully implemented and we were in many regards not to blame for this.

Now the president himself has begun to talk about accord. However, he is again basing it only on a small circle of politicians. But, you see, an accord signed by some leaders or other is not a people's accord, a civil accord. This is only possible when society is stable. When the people have food and housing, and when you and your property are protected.

Whereas earlier the reforms could have been adjusted and channeled into performing vitally important priority tasks affecting the stability of society, now it is already too late. Everything which could have been destroyed has been; the country and people have been forced to protest. A new policy, a policy to extricate the country from this impasse, a policy of reforms for the people, is now essential to stop our chaotic state descending into

criminality. How much longer can we play the fool by trifling with this discredited regime and government, surely we realize who these people are, what goals they are pursuing, and what they are capable of? Surely we realize that a government which brought the state and its economy to the point of absolute crisis is not capable of overcoming this crisis? For the reason that it not only does not know how to do this, but is also incapable of doing it. How can we talk about adjusting the reforms now? What kind of accord can there be and with whom? With those who plundered and ruined the country? With those who deprived children of the opportunity to have a vacation, who did away with young pioneer camps and sports schools, and who forced people to clamber over the rubbish heaps? With those who destroyed our science, Army, culture, education, and health service? With those who destroyed our entire state?

[PRAVDA] But what way out of the current serious crisis is there then?

[Rutskoy] There is much to discuss in this regard, but I will limit myself to this. In order to extricate our country from the current crisis, it is essential first and foremost to create a management system. To evaluate our resources (not the mythical aid and credits from foreign states which, incidentally, will have to be repaid), work out what are the priority tasks for the economy and the social sphere which affect society's stability, and develop new market economic relations and civilized entrepreneurship in this very direction, and not speculation calling it business.

The following priorities are obvious to every citizen: food, housing, health, education, and spiritual and physical development. These issues will and can be resolved; no one will go to rallies or strikes, and it will not be necessary to indulge in demagoguery about an "accord." The execution of these seemingly narrow tasks will have extensive economic consequences which will allow us to rescue from the mire not only agriculture, the construction industry, medicine, education, and sport, but the economy as a whole. We will create new forms of management which will work for the individual. Therefore, whether we like it or not, a concentration of the state's strengths and assets is necessary, first and foremost to carry out these very priority tasks.

Only then will the people feel that the state exists for them, that people have become individuals and not some gullible sheep; then labor discipline and responsibility to society and the state will appear in each person. You should not harbor any illusions that things may change for the better with this president and government. Therefore, it is essential to stop this pretense about consensuses and agreements and get on with things, having replaced the authorities by legal means.

[PRAVDA] What lessons have you yourself learned from everything that has happened?

[Rutskoy] The first lesson is that you should not have blind faith, especially in serious politics. Second, it is necessary to be more reserved, not to give vent to your emotions. Third, I had intended to quit politics, to give it all up. I do after all have civilian skills—I am an artist, an aviation engineer, and pilot. I could also work as an entrepreneur.

But to leave politics today would be treachery, primarily to those people who put their trust in me. I have never suffered from delusions of grandeur or striven to get into power, but I am sure that it is now simply immoral to quit and abandon everything and everybody.

I will always remember those who performed their civil duty to the very end when they defended the Russian Constitution in September-October. I want the Russian people to know that there was not a single bandit, "red-brownshirt," or fascist among us. They were ordinary people, our fellow citizens, and fate will bring us together again on more than one occasion.

I appeal to you, in honoring the memory of the fallen—some people were also wounded, some survived—whoever is not indifferent about our fatherland's fate, I want to assure you: We are all necessary to the homeland, to resurrect this great power, this great nation.

With faith, hope, and love for the fatherland we will achieve happiness, the life we deserve, and greatness for our people and country.

Rutskoy Wants 'New Union' With Pre-1917 Borders

AU0804133194 Paris AFP in English 1315 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow, April 8 (AFP)—Former Russian vice president Aleksandr Rutskoy has called for early general elections, saying this was the only way to establish "legitimate" authority in Russia, and said he would run for president if asked. "Only early, simultaneous presidential and legislative elections can bring legitimate power to the country," Rutskoy said in an interview conducted Thursday [7 April] with AFP.

Rutskoy, 47, said it was still to early to speak in detail about his plans for becoming a presidential candidate, noting that Russia still had no law on presidential elections and that no date for the vote had yet been fixed.

"It is not enough simply to want to run," Rutskoy stated. "But if I am asked to run I believe I would accept because I know what to do and how to do it to stop the current chaos and assure that Russians have a life worthy of citizens of a great country," he said.

Rutskoy, who provided written and oral responses to questions from AFP, denied he favored rebuilding the Soviet Union, but called for a "new union" based on the Russian empire as it existed prior to 1917, excluding Poland and Finland. "The creation of a new, powerful, federal state which would be called Russia can be done," Rutskoy stated.

He also sharply criticized President Boris Yeltsin's plan for all the main political forces in the country to sign a pact known as the "Agreement on Obtaining Civil Accord" which the Kremlin says is needed to curtail extremism in Russian politics.

"An accord with whom and for what?" Rutskoy said. "I don't want to sign anything with the people who have devastated the country and fired on its parliament and its people."

The former Afghan war hero, elected vice president in June 1991 as President Boris Yeltsin's running mate, was dressed casually and appeared relaxed during the 40-minute interview, conducted in an office in his central Moscow apartment. He said he had spent a good deal of time reflecting on the state of Russia during the five months he sat in Moscow's high-security Lefortovo prison after being jailed for his role in leading the October 1993 parliamentary revolt.

Referring to the latest spate of rumors on his former boss's health, Rutskoy said the country had a right to be kept informed on the physical and psychological condition of the head of state. "All the more so when you're talking about a nuclear power," he stated.

Rutskoy repeated his previous criticism of reforms carried out over the past two years, saying during that time Russia had become "a third-rate, colonial, mafia, totalitarian and corrupt state." "The dollar has become the national money and the ruble a crumpled candy wrapper," he stated.

Rutskoy said his new ideology was based on a combination of religious faith and a "national spirit" that had been forgotten by many during the seven decades of communist rule and in the past two years of democratic change. Implementing this ideology "will produce the most important thing: the rebirth of Russian power," he stated.

Rutskoy has joined a newly-created opposition bloc known as "Accord for Russia" which is due to hold its founding congress next month and which some analysts view as the organizational springboard for his presidential bid.

He said he was currently working on two books—"Collapse of a Power" and "The Discovery of Faith"—recounting his personal experiences and his views on the events that have rocked his country in recent years. "I will make an objective study of what has happened to us and how we have found ourselves in this shameful situation," he said. "There will also be new approaches on building the state and economic reforms" in the books, Rutskoy stated.

[Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian on 8 April, page 2, runs an INTERFAX report under the "Opposition" rubric, which adds: "The constituent congress of the "Accord for Russia" movement will take place in Moscow on 19 May, said Vasiliy Lipitskiy, leader of the 'Free Russia' People's Party and a State Duma deputy. This date was set 6 April at the meeting of the movement's group of activists, attended by former Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy, Constitutional Court Judge Valeriy Zorkin, Agrarian Party leader Mikhail Lapshin, Petr Romanov, and Amangeldy Tuleyev, as well as Federation Council deputies and other signatories of the declaration on setting up the movement."]

Yeltsin Aide on Chief Prosecutor Resignation Affair

LD0704172994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1535 GMT 7 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow April 7 TASS—"Aleksey Ilyushenko remains acting procurator-general of the Russian Federation, and Aleksey Kazannik is not Russia's chief prosecutor," Yeltsin's aide Georgiy Satarov told ITAR-TASS after the Federation Council passed a resolution defying Yeltsin's decree dismissing Kazannik from the post.

He explained that "Aleksey Kazannik is not procurator-general because his candidature was not presented to the Federation Council and was not endorsed in the post in the first place."

Commenting on today's decision of the upper chamber, Satarov said that "it was not a legal but a political decision. The Federation Council interpreted the Constitution, which amounts to violating it," he stressed.

According to Satarov, the situation reflects a conflict between two standards one of which is coming to replace the other." One was set by the president's decree 1400 appointing Aleksey Kazannik procurator-general, and the other is set in the Constitution, under which the procurator general must be nominated by the president and confirmed by the Federation Council.

According to Satarov, Boris Yeltsin accepted Kazannik's resignation to resolve the conflict of the two norms and thus cleared space for the new constitution."

Satarov thinks that this legal uncertainty, which arose in the wake of the Federation Council's move today "further complicates the struggle against crime and blocks the activity of the procurator's office."

Yeltsin Spokesman's Statement

LD0704170294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1555 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow April 7 ITAR-TASS—The press secretary of the president of the Russian Federation, Vyacheslav Kostikov issued a statement today, which says:

"Emotions prevailed over politics in the course of discussion of the question about the procurator-general in

the Federation Council. This is characteristic of Russia's fresh state institutions. "But real facts exist apart from emotions.

"It is a reality that Aleksey I. Kazannik tendered his resignation of his own free will.

"It is a reality that the president accepted his resignation and named a new candidate for the post.

"These realities cannot be ignored.

"Hence, it is necessary to look for a way out of the situation.

"A situation of vacuum or double power cannot be allowed to emerge in the sphere of prosecutorship. This blocks the entire system of prosecuting activity at a time when the country is engulfed by a wave of crime. It will be difficult to make clear to the people why an impasse appeared in which the Federation Council has found itself. The prestige of this body can suffer as a result.

"The Federation Council cannot be permitted to become the initiator of political braking at a moment when Russia has begun its movement toward concord.

"One would like to believe that the Federation Council will act proceeding primarily from the supreme interests of the state. The possibilities for this are far from exhaustion."

Shumeyko: Kazannik Resigned Without Pressure

LD0804125294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1111 GMT 8 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow April 8 TASS—Former Russian prosecutor general Aleksey Kazannik confirmed his resignation on Friday on his own will and no pressure was exerted on him, according to speaker of the Federation Council Vladimir Shumeyko.

"Kazannik adopted the decision on his own initiative", he told TASS adding that the former prosecutor asked to be given the floor for his statement why [as received] talking to a group of deputies.

"The essence of his speech was important to me and I realised that regardless of political colours the essence was correct and aimed at achieving civic peace in society", Shumeyko said. "That is why we have agreed to give the floor to Kazannik", he added.

Shumeyko believes that in a couple of weeks the upper chamber will return to the issue of the prosecutor general. It will accept Kazannik's resignation and will consider the new candidate nominated by the president - Aleksey Ilyushenko.

Kazannik Confirms Resignation

LD0804064894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0630 GMT 8 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow April 8 TASS—Alexey Kazannik, the former Russian prosecutor general, confirmed his resignation at a meeting of the Federation Council on Friday. Speaker of the upper chamber Vladimir Shumeyko said that this ends the dispute over the prosecutor general.

The Federation Council snubbed the Russian president on Thursday by reinstating Kazannik as the prosecutor general which it could not do as Kazannik was not nominated by Boris Yeltsin. According to the Constitution, it is the Federation Council which appoints the prosecutor, but the candidate is to be nominated by the president.

Kazannik resigned after freeing anti-Yeltsin rebels according to the Duma-proclaimed amnesty and Yeltsin accepted his resignation. The president then appointed Alexey Ilyushenko as acting prosecutor general. After the Federation Council refused to sack Kazannik, Georgiy Satarov, a Yeltsin's aide, said the decision did not mean that he would be reinstated. Ilyushenko would remain acting prosecutor general, according to him. Most observers said the decision of the upper chamber was based on political grounds, not on juridical ones.

Kazannik Warns of 'Dictatorship'

LD0804082994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0749 GMT 8 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow April 8 TASS—Former Russian Prosecutor General Alexey Kazannik warned on Friday that a dictatorship is coming in Russia because the president ignores the constitution and laws. He told the Federation Council that he had adopted the final decision to resign because "the president and his entourage have shown once again that they are not going to abide by the constitution, law, the resolutions of the State Duma and the Federation council".

"Open dictatorship is coming", he said and expressed conviction that Russia "will get a true president and an independent prosecutor general in the coming years". He praised the legislature by saying that "Russia took pains and received an independent parliament which respects the constitution".

Kazannik said that he is resigning "in order to unite all progressive forces of Russia". "I did not want to become a source of confrontation between different political forces", he told reporters and added that "the president and his administration would not have allowed him to work because they do not need an independent prosecutor".

He denied claims that he simply wanted to return to his high-ranking post. "I strived to preserve the Office of the Prosecutor General as a single system, to avert political repressions, ensure the supremacy of law, protect the rights of citizens", he said. Kazannik added that now he intends to create a mighty "party of unity and national progress" and will begin organising it in the regions because, as he said, he "enjoys great support there".

Yeltsin Creates 'Analytical Council'

LD0804110394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1025 GMT 8 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow April 8 TASS—Boris Yeltsin ruled to create an expert-analytical council, an analytical centre at the president [as received] and an information-technical centre of analytical research at the presidential administration in order "to improve the analytical and information provision of the Russian president and the quality of preparing the decisions of the president", the office of the Russian leader said on Friday. Marat Guriyev was appointed the head of the new information-technical centre.

The decision came one day after a scandal caused by a resolution of the president which mentioned Latvia among possible countries where Russia intends to have its military bases.

Presidential spokesman Vyacheslav Kostikov explained on Thursday that Latvia was mentioned in the document because of a "technical mistake". However, a source in the presidential administration told TASS the restructuring was not linked with the "technical mistake" and was a planned reorganisation. The source added that Guriyev's appointment was a promotion.

Yeltsin also dissolved his analytical centre for general policy and the analytical centre for social-economic policy.

Filatov To Chair

LD0804100694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0802 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow, 8 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has signed an edict on the Russian Federation's presidential expert analysis service. The Expert Analysis Council and the Analysis Center attached to the Russian Federation president as well as the Information Technology Center for Analytical Research within the presidential administration are being set up in order to improve provision of analytical and information services for the Russian Federation president.

Members of the Expert Analysis Council will be working on voluntary basis. Sergey Filatov will act as its chairman. Yevgeniy Yasin is appointed head of the Analytical Center and Marat Guriyev head of the Information Technology Cente for Analytical Research.

The press service of the Russian president reports that the General Policy Analysis Center and the Socioeconomic Policy Analysis Center within the Russian Federation presidential administration have been abolished.

The edict establishes provisions for the Expert Analysis Council and the Analysis Center attached to the president of the Russian Federation.

Shakhray Comments on New Post, Duties

LD0704204994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1715 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Vice-Premier, Minister for Nationalities and Regional Policy of the Russian Federation Sergey Shakhray expressed the opinion that he will be in charge of national and regional policy in the government, as well as relations with the Federal Assembly and the media. He gave an interview to INTERFAX after the president issued a decree nominating Shakhray the deputy prime minister. Shakhray noted that a final decision on the range of his duties will be taken at a meeting of the government presidium.

Shakhray said that after the new appointment he has no intention of losing his deputy mandate. He pointed out that he is not working in the ruling structures in the State Duma. "My job in the lower chamber of the parliament boils down to coordination of activities of the Russian Unity and Accord Party's faction," he noted.

Yavlinskiy Interviewed on Presidential Ambition

AU0804094794 Hamburg DIE WOCHE in German 7 Apr 94 p 19

[Interview with Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, chairman of the Yavlinskiy-Boldyrev-Lukin faction in the Duma, by Andrzej Rybak; place and date not given: "Weimar in Moscow"]

[Text] [Rybak] President Yeltsin is sick, a situation increasingly reminiscent of Leonid Brezhnev. Does Russia need a new president immediately?

[Yavlinskiy] I do not wish to discuss Boris Yeltsin's health. There is another reason to hold presidential elections: Russia experienced a tragedy in October 1993. Every president has the moral duty to face the electorate as soon as possible, but Yeltsin has not done so.

[Rybak] You are one of the most popular politicians in Russia. Are you going to run in the coming presidential elections?

[Yavlinskiy] Yes, if the elections are held in a legal manner. I must show that people of other generations, people with different political convictions, can make politics in Russia. And: I am going to win these elections.

[Rybak] You want to take over a ruined country in which national communists are already causing trouble. Can a bloodbath still be prevented?

[Yavlinskiy] In January, we produced 24 percent less than in the previous January. Four thousand enterprises are idle. The situation is serious but not hopeless. However, the president and the government are behaving as if there were no crisis at all. In such a situation, tension is inevitable. But I do not want to rush to conclusions.

[Rybak] How much more deprivation can the Russians take?

[Yavlinskiy] The people's patience has been stretched beyond its limits. But one dare not even think about a social upheaval. It would plunge the country and the world into an unimaginable disaster.

[Rybak] The constitution gives Boris Yeltsin enormous power. But is he really the master over the situation?

[Yavlinskiy] No president can manage such a quantity of power, and certainly not our president. The consequence of this is that his power apparatus is becoming independent and he is under no social control. No one can say who makes the decisions or who influences them. Yeltsin is running the country in an increasingly authoritarian manner.

[Rybak] Is that not extremely dangerous?

[Yavlinskiy] Even Hindenburg divided the German Parliament. He wanted to put an end to the Weimar Republic conditions. And what happened? The situation in Russia today is very similar. The birth of fascism is following a roundabout route. Democratic chaos followed by authoritarianism and then fascism.

[Rybak] Does Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's success mean the dawning of fascism?

[Yavlinskiy] Zhirinovskiy is a warning.

[Rybak] A change of course is taking place in Russian foreign policy. Is Russia seeking to reestablish its empire?

[Yavlinskiy] The borders between Russia and the former Soviet republics exist only on paper. They are no longer guarded. Therefore there is a great danger that ethnic conflicts will spread from these republics into Russia. We must counteract them.

[Rybak] But the Russian Army is itself fanning unrest. It is pursuing its own policy in the former republics!

[Yavlinskiy] In Russia, everyone is still pursuing his own policy—the Finance Ministry, the Central Bank, and the Economics Ministry. That is why the situation is so chaotic. The president is also trying to pursue two separate political paths at the same time, a democratic path on the one hand and a megalo-Russian one on the other. He wants to please all the lobbies, but he is enmeshing himself in contradictions.

[Rybak] The latest announcements are rekindling old fears. Will Russia again be an evil empire?

[Yavlinskiy] Yeltsin is a populist. He was a great democrat as long as he believed that democracy was very popular. Now that he has seen how popular Zhirinovskiy is, he is trying to copy him. That is naive. He will not lure the nationalists this way, but he will certainly lose his own supporters. Do you want to know what Russian politics is going to look like? Then watch Zhirinovskiy. Yeltsin wants to be liked, and he wants to stay in power.

[Rybak] U.S. economics expert Jeffrey Sachs is accusing the West of not having rendered adequate financial support to the radical reforms.

[Yavlinskiy] Why should the West have done so? I do not believe in the current leadership, so I would not give it too much money.

[Rybak] But Russia might overcome the economic crisis more successfully if it receives Western aid.

[Yavlinskiy] Last year, $15 billion worth of capital left Russia. What is the point of granting credits if they immediately go back to the West, only this time into other people's pockets?

[Rybak] Is Yeltsin right to demand a slowdown of the reforms?

[Yavlinskiy] No. The reforms must continue at a rapid pace. But they must be genuine reforms. Up to now we have been dealing with quasi-reforms in Russia. Just imagine that you want to travel from Hamburg to Berlin, but you board the train to Flensburg instead. You keep on traveling, but you never reach Berlin. It makes no difference if the train is traveling fast or slow. First you must board the right train and in the right direction.

Burbulis Resigns From Russia's Choice Faction

LD0704210094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1715 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Commenting on his decision to leave the Russia's Choice faction to journalists on Thursday, deputy of the State Duma Gennadiy Burbulis noted that this is "not a departure from the democratic movement in general, but a breakthrough to the social and professional environment which needs most active and concrete support today."

Announcing his resignation from the faction on Thursday, Burbulis explained his step by his intention to set up a new democratic movement.

In his opinion, the new movement should include representatives from all regions of the Russian Federation who "have never been engaged in political activities, but by their views and convictions are the most active supporters and defenders of the democratic reforms in Russia."

Burbulis also noted that "it would be politically wrong for him to proclaim a new democratic party or movement now." "Let it happen from inside, from regions," Burbulis said.

Asked about his attitude to Yegor Gaydar's plans to create a new party called Russia's Choice, Burbulis noted that "it is already impossible to stop these plans." "Let the new party be born," Burbulis said noting that it would not fulfil its expectations,

Burbulis also noted that he would like to be "kind of a bridge" between the party Russia's Choice and the new democratic movement which he envisages.

[Moscow ITAR-TASS in English at 1451 GMT on 7 April 1994 adds: "Commenting on this move, Russia's Choice Leader Yegor Gaydar expressed "deep regret" over it. "Although Gennadiy Burbulis's decision will have serious consequences for the faction, it should not be dramatized", he noted. Another member of the Russia's Choice faction, Stepan Sulakshin, followed suit and announced his intention to quit the faction at the same meeting."

Sulakshin To 'Defect'

LD0804140394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1045 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Member of the Russia's Choice (RC) faction in the State Duma, Stepan Sulakshin, says he intends to defect to the unregistered parliamentary group known as the December 12 Union. To be registered, the group must win over six people.

In an interview with Interfax, the group's co-chairman Yevgeniy Bushmin said two more members of RC—Rashid Ismaghilov and Vladimir Yuzhakov—are negotiating to switch over as well. And, according to Bushmin, one or two members of the New Regional Politics group could be expected to join the "Decembrists" ranks. Bushmin refused to identify these.

Another leader of the December 12 Union group, Irina Khakamada, told Interfax she was dissatisfied with the RC's decision to show understanding if some of its members sided with the Decemebr 12 Union group. In Khakamada's view, the RC could have moved to help Decenber 12 devotees by campaigning for their official recognition and rights as a group in parliament.

On Friday Gennadiy Burbulis also announced his decision to leave the Russia's Choice group.

Russia's Choice, December 12 Union To Cooperate

LD0704210994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1853 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] The Russia's Choice parliamentary group approved at its Thursday meeting the proposal made by Boris Fedorov, the leader of the unregistered group December 12 Union, that the two groups start closer cooperation on most important issues on the agenda of the lower house.

Russia's Choice leader Yegor Gaydar also told his supporters that the December 12 Union was short of members to be registered officially. It had 29 while 35 were needed for official registration. The Russia's Choice adopted a decision saying that it would not punish its members who voluntarily join the December 12 Union.

Gleb Yakunin called for a closer bloc between the two groups. Gaydar supported the idea and said that he would help the setting up of a club of democratic deputies Gaydar also said that he had called on Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, leader of another pro-democracy faction, to work closer together and that Fedorov had done the same.

To Coordinate Duma Activities

LD0604175694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1411 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] On Wednesday the State Duma faction Russia's Choice and the unregistered deputies group Union of December 12 reached a preliminary agreement to coordinate their activity on issues submitted to the Federal Assembly's lower chamber for discussion, Russia's Choice leader Yegor Gaydar reported to Interfax. In his words, they have reached the same preliminary agreement with the faction Yabloko.

Gaydar reported that during his meeting with the leader of the Union of December 12 group Boris Fedorov and other members of this deputies group they discussed the issue regarding "creation of a coordinating mechanism which would allow to coordinate their positions beforehand." The meeting of the Russia's Choice faction scheduled for Thursday, to quote Gaydar, will finally fix this agreement. Gaydar also pointed out that the representatives of the Union of December 12 group again raised the issue concerning rendering assistance to them with people. This issue concerns that fact that the Union of December 12 group needs six more people to be registered; now there are 29 members in the group instead of 35 in accordance with the State Duma's regulations. Gaydar believes that the Russia's Choice meeting will find a positive resolution to this issue.

Meanwhile, in his interview with Interfax leader of the Union of December 12, Fedorov, refuted Gaydar's assertion stating that members of the group asked him to help in staffing the group. "We raised the issue so that Russia's Choice did not hinder its members who expressed their wish to join the Union of December 12 group by different means," stressed Fedorov.

Fedorov also pointed out that they had reached an agreement with Russia's Choice "to jointly discuss the tactics on the agenda of the State Duma "without any mutual obligations and without creation of any blocs or

coalitions." He reaffirmed that such an agreement had been already reached with the Yabloko faction.

Russia's Choice Rejects Nazabayev Proposal on Union

LD0704210894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1853 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] The State Duma Russia's Choice group "received with interest and understanding the proposal advanced by Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev on the setting up of a Euro-Asian union" but was convinced that the formation of such a union was impossible without tenacious efforts by legislative and executive bodies, politicians and businessmen in the countries that might join the union, says the group's statement made public Thursday.

The statement insisted that to make such a union possible "the economic systems of our countries have to converge, customs and monetary unions set up and legislations brought into line with one another."

Russia's Choice did not back the introduction of a transnational currency while "the Russian ruble has been fairly successfully performing this function" or the setting up of a transnational bank.

One essential condition for the integration processes to succeed, Russia's Choice felt, was that "closer ties between the states and formation of unions should not harm the economic interests of the Russians."

Kozyrev on Zhirinovskiy, Unemployment

LD0704222794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1536 GMT 7 Apr 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: Reports by diplomatic correspondents Dmitriy Voskoboinikov, Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy, and others]

[Text] Kozyrev said that numerous politicians felt no responsibility for what they were doing to their country. "Regrettably, our numerous partners in the West fail to understand that some Russian politicians, notably the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, are more interesting for medical than for political science. Western businessmen tend to abandon plans to invest in Russia after reading in newspapers what such politicos have to say. The net effect is obviously anti-Russian, not patriotic," he said.

Kozyrev was confident that Zhirinovskiy, a clownish figure, would not be elected anywhere again.

Kozyrev would like to switch the foreign policy from ideology and man-made problems inherited from the cold war to everyday problems of common people, above all in Russian outlying regions which make the core of Russia.

In Kozyrev's view, "the state should not harm the regions or obstruct their development. There is much talk of unemployment while roads deep inside Russia are such that one is afraid of riding them. Road construction is the sphere where quite a lot of people can be employed."

'Document' on Zhirinovskiy's Elipton Weapon

AU0704143894 Bucharest ROMANIA LIBERA in Romanian 4 Apr 94 p 1

[Oana Stanciulescu article: "ROMANIA LIBERA Has Obtained a Sensational Document—The Study Was Done by Military Experts Under the Coordination of the Foreign Intelligence Service: Zhirinovskiy's Earthquakes Are Threatening Romania"]

[Text] Related to various speculation that is being made in connection with the mysterious weapon mentioned by Russian ultra- nationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, Romanian experts have reached the conclusion that actually one has to deal with a maneuver launched by special Russian bodies intended to intoxicate public opinion, and which, owing to lack of information, have managed to fool the mass media in the West and even in our country. Thus, they went so far as to consider the Elipton a sonic weapon, a biological weapon, and even a microwave weapon, while the true nature of this military-technical system was lost in the general cacophony.

Elipton is a weapon system based on gravitational interference. After the last catastrophic earthquake that shook Yerevan, U.S. military analysts revealed two strange things: The catastrophe, which seemed to be a natural one, occurred at a "providential" moment to halt Armenia's autonomist tendencies and it also offered the Soviet political-military authorities a good pretext to liquidate the Armenian nuclear power industry, and thus impose an acute energy dependence on that central republic; the second element refers to the fact that early-warning satellites recorded an orbital "double lightning," which preceded, by a very short time, the earthquake. That was an unmistakable sign of the detonation of a small-size nuclear load, contravening all currently valid international treaties. It was easy to draw conclusions: The Soviets have discovered a way to trigger earthquakes. Ten months later, using a rocket launched from an F-15 fighter-bomber (ASAT system), the United States managed to intercept, for the first time, a low-orbit satellite. The system was allegedly designed to destroy Soviet spy satellites, but actually it was the sole efficient defense to counter the use of the Elipton over U.S. territory. However, certain rumors had already reached the ears of the mass media—it was the time when many people believed in an imminent and catastrophic reactivation of the San Andreas fault, some sources even held it possible that "half of California would sink into the ocean," as a consequence of a devastating earthquake.

The advantages of the Elipton are obvious: It is a discreet weapon, and any accusations can be brushed off by

saying it is a "phantasm," provided that it is used by daylight, so that its lightning could be camouflaged by the sun's natural light.

It is quite significant that merely three days after Zhirinovskiy's extremely allusive statement regarding the Elipton, the Geophysical Institute of the Russian Academy organized a news conference on the issue of seismic weapons, although no one had explicitly talked about such a thing. That news conference seems to be rather the result of panic. The Russians did not know precisely to what extent Zhirinovskiy, the former GRU [Soviet Military Intelligence] agent, had divulged about the Elipton, and they assumed that Western journalists were at least aware of the exact nature of that weapons system and the name of the person coordinating the program, which, as it later turned out, was not the case at all. During this news conference they claimed that in fact the Elipton does not exist at all: "Earthquakes cannot be triggered except in the places where nature has already prepared them," said the official statement, which, as a matter of fact, was quite precise. The statement actually confirmed previous information about the existence of the Elipton-type weapon systems and about their nature, and it also offered an exact description of the way in which they work. The Hammer [as published] triggers earthquakes wherever there is accumulated tension in the ground, which can be unleashed by a minimal variation of the gravitational acceleration. Thus, they can trigger earthquakes—the magnitude of which, it is true, is very difficult to predict—in areas in which over the past 1,000 years there has not been any seismic activity at all.

The Romanian state is directly vulnerable to weapons such as the Hammer or the Hole [as published] that are part of the Elipton program. Important industrial centers of our country and vital establishments of our defense industry are situated in valley areas such as Tara Barsei [central Romania, where the Carpathian Mountains turn], in which the triggering of catastrophic tornadoes could cause enormous damage to our industrial infrastructure. Moreover, owing to the existence of the seismic area in Vrancea [northeastern Romania], the possible use of Hammer-type weapons there would cause a catastrophe in Bucharest, considering the current precarious state of the buildings in our capital city.

Such weapons might be used in the near future if a geopolitical conflict breaks out as a consequence of the unification of the Republic of Moldova with Romania or of our country's active integration within NATO. No methods are known to counter such weapons. However, one could count on warning signs offered by attempts to use them, which fail owing to insufficient precision.

Trade Unions, Employers, Government Sign Agreement

LD0804130794 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Excerpt] An overall agreement was signed today in Moscow by the all-Russia trade union associations, the employers, and the government. The document spells out general principles for conducting an agreed socio-economic policy in Russia. The government, employers, and trade unions sign such agreements every year. But this time, our correspondent Andrey Zenkov thinks, it contains something unusual.

[Begin Zenkov recording] Although a trilateral agreement is signed every year, its fate this year gave rise to particular concern. And if today, before my very eyes, the agreement had not been signed by the labor and agriculture ministers, the first deputy economics and finance ministers, two deputy finance ministers and a whole collection of other senior officials, I would not have had too much faith in the reality of the documents myself.

Judge for yourselves. Paragraph two of part one envisages an agreed settlement and state control of energy prices and fares. And paragraph 22 of part three talks about clearing all the wage arrears for workers in state-financed sectors in the second quarter of this year. Fresh state subsidies worth billions can be seen with the naked eye, yet no trace can be detected of any compromise moves by the trade unions, for example. Let's say, a temporary renunciation of strike action. Anyway, the immediate future will give analysts the opportunity to assess the document in detail. [end recording] [passage omitted]

FCS Briefing on Security Workshop, DPRK Incident

MK0804103094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 8 Apr 94 p 14

[Leonid Berres report: "News Briefing at Russian FCS. Main Threat to Russia Is Inside its Borders"]

[Text] A three-day scientific-practical conference "Security of the Individual, Society, State, and Russia's Special Services" ended yesterday. Its outcome was summed up at a news briefing at the central club of the Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service [FCS]. Taking part in it were Vladimir Rubanov, deputy secretary of Russia's Security Council; Vladimir Volokh, deputy head of the Federal Emigration Service of Russia; Yuriy Stsepinskiy, deputy head of the FCS analytical directorate; and Petr Dmitriyev, scientific director of Moscow State University. The news briefing was hosted by Aleksandr Mikhaylov, head of the FCS Public Relations Center (PRC).

In the course of the conference, its more than 800 participants heard 98 reports and addresses. The main attention was paid to a new conception of Russia's security system and a doctrine enabling it. As Yuriy Stsepinskiy stated, "the main threat to Russia is inside its borders." Asked by journalists if fragmenting the Russian Ministry of Security may weaken the country's security, Vladimir Rubanov replied that the effectiveness of measures taken had been proven by world

practice. In the opinion of Aleksandr Mikhaylov, however, the operation of new subdivisions, in connection with the reorganization, should be efficiently coordinated.

Vladimir Volokh dwelled upon the problems of forced emigration. According to Federal Emigration Service [FES] information, about 2 million forced emigrants from CIS republics and another 500,000 from developing countries have entered Russia in the past three years. In his opinion, it had been long necessary to pass a law on emigration, otherwise Russia's FES would "choke."

According to Petr Dmitriyev, actions by FCS operatives have virtually no legal basis. Therefore, he thought, their activities should be regulated by a law "On Special Services" whose draft is in the works.

Aleksandr Mikhaylov, in his turn, briefed journalists on the results of a snap poll of the conference participants. It was found during the poll that 66 percent of the respondents are satisfied with the activity of the counterintelligence service, and 18 percent are not. At the same time, 74 percent of the polled think that the fight against corruption and smuggling is not being waged at the appropriate level.

The PRC head also gave your KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent some details about the incident involving North Korean diplomats held last week by FCS officers as they tried to smuggle from Russia two rockets (Mr. Mikhaylov did not specify what sort of rockets). In his words, Russia and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are not interested in further publicizing this affair because it concerns more than relations between two countries. This also finds confirmation in the categorical refusal of DPRK Embassy personnel to give any comments in this regard.

Counterintelligence Chief: Minister Under Investigation

LD0704222294 St. Petersburg Fifth Channel Television Network in Russian 1530 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] A sensational statement made today at No. 4 [street name indistinct] may become the main theme of newspaper headlines and TV programs for several weeks. Sergey Stepashin, head of the Federal Counterintelligence Service [FSK], came to St. Petersburg today to hold a regional meeting with counterintelligence directorate heads and a closed meeting with directors from the military-industrial complex. However in an interview for our program he made a fairly clear statement on incidents of corruption in the Russian Government.

[Begin Stepashin recording] Only yesterday, or rather the day before yesterday to be precise, I sent a written report to Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin about a very high-ranking official of ministerial rank, who is now being investigated. Yes, such work is going on. But I want to stress once again that corruption and episodes of corruption are fairly sensitive and so there can be no haste here. [end recording]

Sergey Stepashin, naturally, could not name the minister accused of corruption. However, the fact that the president was informed immediately shows that we are talking about someone in the top ranks of politics. But the meeting with the military-industrial complex bosses was not only concerned with corruption. Inter alia, we received information that there is a sharp increase in recruitment work by foreign intelligence services and even a stepping up of activities by the special services of our southern neighbors in the CIS. Representations have been made to Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan about attempts to recruit our citizens. Five personnel from the Georgian security department were detained by our counterintelligence and handed over to the authorities in Tbilisi. So, at the moment, it is still too early to talk about a free and open society without strong special services.

Criminal Proceedings Against Barannikov, Dunayev Begun

LD0704211494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1853 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] The Russian Prosecutor General's Office has started criminal proceedings against Former Security Minister Viktor Barannikov and Former First Deputy Interior Minister Andrey Dunayev, suspected of taking bribes and abusing their authority, and against their wives, suspected of contraband. The proceedings were started on April 5 by Deputy Prosecutor General Vladimir Kravtsev after he saw records which the Moscow City Prosecutor's Office earlier dismissed as giving no grounds for criminal action.

Details of Draft Civil Service Law Reported

MK0804101094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 8 Apr 94 p 2

[Olga Garbuzova report: "Law on Civil Service. Bureaucrats To Be Banned From Taking Bribes"]

[Text] Nightmares that haunted Chekhov's protagonists will apparently soon be understandable for current Russian bureaucrats. In accordance with the draft Law on the Civil Service in the Russian Federation, which has been drawn up by the working group of the State Duma committee on judicial and legal reform, examinations and assessments of qualifications will be regularly conducted in the civil service.

The draft law proposes that the obscure titles of the old Russian Table of Ranks, such as "collegiate assessor" or "titular counselor," be replaced with less spectacular "counselor" and "consultant." The draft's authors have also rejected the trappings that had formerly added luster

to this occupation, such as a civil uniform and strict rules of address: there will be no Your Honors or simply Your Excellencies.

The draft calls for civil servants to be divided into politicians and administrators. The politicians, as is the case now, will be elected, and the administrators will be appointed via competition.

According to the new table of ranks, each administrative official will know his place. For them, a number of grades have been established: top, chief, leading, senior, and junior officials. In order to begin a climb up the career ladder and to become a junior official, one needs to have at least secondary professional education. It is expected that all top and chief officials in Russia must have a degree. All civil servants will have special titles conferred on them. For starters, a civil service consultant; then a civil service counselor; simply a counselor; and a state counselor. A career can be crowned with the title of full state counselor first class. All titles will have the same number of classes—from one to three. The transfer from one rung to another will entail an increase in one's salary by at least 70 percent.

For the sake of all that a civil servant will have to sacrifice a whole range of rights enjoyed by other citizens. Bureaucrats may not engage in entrepreneurial activity. No presents, no bribes (referred to in the draft as "financial rewards") or other "bones thrown to them"—even upon retirement. Civil servants will be banned from calling strikes and accepting foreign orders without the president's permission. In order for a civil servant better to realize his responsibility, he will swear an oath when entering the civil service.

New Financial-Industrial Group Approved

PM0704142194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 Apr 94 First Edition p 3

[Aleksandr Golyayev report: "'Sokol' in Flight"]

[Text] The Interdepartmental Comission for Promoting the Organization of Industrial Companies and Financial-Industrial Groups has approved the project for the "Sokol" Financial-Industrial Group, which has been submitted to it, and adopted a decision to register it and issue its certificate of registration. The project was elaborated on the intiative of specialists and leaders from a number of major industrial and financial enterprises of the Central Chernozem Zone and other economic regions of Russia, and was backed by the administrations of Voronezh, Kursk, and Sverdlovsk Oblasts.

Projections suggest that, already in its first stage, "Sokol" will be able to secure a growth in the volume of manufactured output from 326 billion rubles [R] last year to R1.27 trillion in 1996. The recoupment period of the investment projects will be from two to five years.

"The creation of the 'Sokol' Financial-Industrial Group meets the fundamental interests of federal industrial policy. This policy aims at developing the science and production complex, ensuring the competitiveness of Russian-made products, and raising economic potential," Igor Shurchkov, chairman of the State Committee for Industrial Policy, said. "We wish to use the experience of 'Sokol' and of the 'Uralskiye Zavody' Financial-Industrial Group which was set up earlier to prove the efficiency and promise of such groups."

Media Issues

New Department To Grant Press Access to Administration

LD0704151994 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1200 GMT 7 Apr 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Correspondent P. Korovyakovskiy] Lots of secret things have become known in recent years. We now know about underground towns, about the bugs in the American Embassy, and even about the anti-aircraft system. Probably there is only one thing that we do not know much about: What is happening deep within the president's administration and how his, frankly speaking, large apparatus works and what it is doing.

Meanwhile, sociologists believe that it is precisely because there is such an information vacuum that the authorities are often unable to explain the logic of economic and political reforms to the population, and the laws, programs, and directives that are prepared.

[Begin recording] [P. Filippov, head of the Directorate for Information Services, in progress] ...come as a surprise to society. There is no stage of previous discussion of them in the press or on radio and TV. [end recording]

[Korovyakovskiy] The Directorate for Information Services, a new structure under the president headed by Petr Filippov, from now on intends to regularly inform the press precisely on everyday administrative matters. The journalists that were invited to today's news conference in the former CPSU building were promised access to all the sub-departments of the service and to all officials. Petr Filippov promised that those officials of the presidential staff that refuse to give an interview will be made to do it, but not by using methods favored by the former owners of these halls.

Court Dismisses IZVESTIYA Suit Against Government

PM0804133794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Apr 94 p 2

[Eduard Gonzalez report: "Another Trial Behind Us. Izvestiya Publishing House Case Against Russian Government Over"]

[Text] It will soon be a year that representatives of the Izvestiya Publishing House have been paying occasional

visits to the Russian Federation Supreme Court of Arbitration. Its ruling, as we have already reported, is now legally valid—regarding the lawfulness of the founding of the "IZVESTIYA Editorial Office" Joint-Stock Company. However the publishing house filed new charges—this time against the Russian Government. Why, they say, did it give the order for the joint-stock company to be privatized?

Although this question has been discussed on two occasions as part of the case and two legal bodies have adopted a ruling, a court comprising A. Kozlova, T. Yegorova, and I. Podyachev was forced to consider it separately. There is nothing you can do about it—that is the plaintiff's procedural right.

The interests of the Russian Government were represented by P. Mostova, first deputy chairman of the Russian State Committee for the Management of State Property, and lawyer B. Maksimov. The editorial office's interests were defended by A. Rakhmilovich, member of the Moscow City Collegium of Attorneys.

The court produced its ruling—that the proceedings be dismissed. The reasons have not yet been given and we do not know what they will reveal. But we can guess what the judges will quite understandably not say. Namely, only in our upside-down back-to-front world can someone who uses state property file charges against the owner—the country's government. And the owner has to justify himself instead of asking: How do you use state property?

Were the owner to ask that question a host of trials would sweep across Russia. And not of course in courts of arbitration. However, these subjective impressions have nothing to do with the trial and its ruling.

PRAVDA Journalists Vote To Fire Editor

PM0704173494 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 8 Apr 94 p 1

["Editorial Chronicle" report: "The Court Is One Thing—the Job Is Another"]

[Text] On 6 April the Savelovskiy Intermunicipal Court reinstated Viktor Linnik in the post of PRAVDA chief editor. But the court is one thing—and the job is another. V. Linnik, who had issued a number of orders by the end of the day, and the small group of journalists who support him, proved unable to produce a newspaper: PRAVDA did not appear on 7 April.

Yesterday there was a joint meeting of Journalists Union members and the PRAVDA journalists' collective. The meeting relieved Viktor Linnik, who was reinstated in his post by the court, of his duties as PRAVDA chief editor. Aleksandr Ilin was again elected to that post.

So Viktor Linnik is giving the orders, while the vast majority of PRAVDA workers are producing the newspaper.

[Moscow ITAR-TASS in English at 0911 GMT on 8 April adds: "PRAVDA with a circulation of 218,000 is now run by Greek businessman Jannis Jannikos, the president of the 'PRAVDA international' joint stock company."]

Economic Issues

Chubays, Chernomyrdin on Privatization Progress

LD0704173794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1340 GMT 7 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow April 7 TASS—Russian privatisation chief Anatoliy Chubays said that 70 per cent of trading, public catering and every-day service facilities have been already privatised in Russia. Chubays believes that by the end of the year this figure will reach 85-90 per cent. Also 80 per cent of 20,000 large industrial enterprises subject to privatisation have changed hands, he said.

Speaking at a closed-door session of the Russian Government Presidium on Thursday, the vice-premier said that the privatisation voucher has already paid off. As of April 1, 1994 105 million privatisation vouchers had been collected. That leaves about 45 million vouchers to be still collected. A total of 650 voucher investment funds have been set up in the country. The major result of privatisation is that joint stock companies and privatised enterprises remain open to foreign and domestic investors, Chubays said.

Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin noted that the Russian Government will not backtrack on the course of reforms, adding, however, that "we must be sure that we are going the right way. Particularly, we must make sure that privatisation does not turn out to be a sham."

Fedorov on Prospects for Stabilization

MK0804075094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 8 Apr 94 p 2

[Vyacheslav Bantin (ITAR-TASS) report in the "Forecast" column: "Boris Fedorov: The Cabinet Has a Chance To Complete Financial Stabilization. The ex-Minister Is Ready To Rejoin the Government"]

[Text] Former finance minister Boris Fedorov in an interview with ITAR-TASS stated that thanks to a fall in the rate of inflation down to 9.8 percent in February and 8 percent in March, the government now has a unique chance to complete successfully the many-month efforts toward financial stabilization. "The cabinet of ministers has the possibility to use the emerging results of the policy conducted by the previous government," the State Duma deputy noted. "It is worrying, however, that in the last three and a half months the Viktor Chernomyrdin government has not undertaken a single step that could be described as reformist."

If the current government continues such a stance, in the next few weeks a retreat from the economic gains achieved will become inevitable, Boris Fedorov believes. According to him, the first sign of this will be the extension of large financial subsidies to state enterprises, in particular the upcoming appropriation in April of approximately 3 trillion rubles to enterprises in the agricultural sector. Such a move, the former Russian Federation finance minister pointed out, will thwart the existing possibility to carry though in Russia "the most painless financial stabilization in world history."

Confirming his prediction that by the end of the year the rate of the dollar could rise to 10,000 rubles, Boris Fedorov expressed the opinion that Viktor Chernomyrdin's government will be able to "last" only until this fall unless it moves from passive policy to an active course for reform. "If by that time the cabinet of ministers does not undertake real actions, the government will at best be reformed," the former Russian finance minister said. He expressed readiness to rejoin the government "if the requisite powers are granted" to him.

Zaveryukha: No Grain Purchase Contracts This Year

LD0704212694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1715 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Russia has not concluded a single contract to purchase grain from abroad since the beginning of this year, Russian Vice Prime Minister Aleksandr Zaveryukha told a conference of representatives of 55 regions who had come to a wholesale fair in Sochi, Krasnodar territory. Zaveryukha said Russia's current stocks of soft grain will last until the new harvest, those of fodder for 1.5 years and those of rice and other cereals for two years.

In 1993, Russia concluded contracts on the purchase of 16 Mn tons of grain, while its imports totalled only 11 Mn tons the same year. In 1992, Russia's grain purchases amounted to 26 Mn tons.

At the same time, Zaveryukha called for stricter control over the use of stocks of grain and other food staples. In his opinion, this is a task for a nation-wide network developed by the World Bank, Russian Agriculture and Food Ministry and the Finance Ministry which would store information about the current state of the stocks, prices of the products and other data.

Spending on Foreign Currency Increases

PM0804090794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 Apr 94 p 1

[RIA report: "Russians Love To Buy Hard Currency"]

[Text] The Russian population is increasing its spending on hard currency: 1.8253 trillion rubles [R] were spent last December, R1.8572 trillion in January, and... R1.8803 trillion in February.

Compared with January 1993, when Russians spent R17 billion on hard currency, spending has increased virtually 111-fold. This is indicated in an analytical article prepared by the Russian Ministry of the Economy.

Factories' Hard Currency Accounts To Be Taxed

LD0704225094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1853 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] The State Taxation Office of Russia, the Central Bank of Russia and the Finance Ministry have issued a ruling making it possible to tax and fine the hard currency accounts of factories and organizations if their ruble accounts have been exhausted.

Deputy head of the Taxation Office Nikolay Ivanov told the Financial Information Agency that as the payment crisis was raging in the country, numerous factories, organizations and commercial banks failed to pay taxes or tried to delay the payments by keeping their cash in hard currency accounts.

This step will enable the Taxation Office to collect significant amounts. As of April 1 various organizations owed the budget about 5.5 trillion rubles.

Ivanov emphasized that the ruling provided for very strict penalties for bank officers who failed to carry out the procedure.

He also said that the Finance Ministry, the Taxation Office and the CBR have submitted to the government proposals on tighter controls over bank and factory managers as far as rules of storing, using and transferring cash were concerned.

Excise Tax on Gasoline Introduced

LD0704211894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1715 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] By its ordinance No. 273 of March 31 the Russian government introduced an excise tax on gasoline. The excise will be equal to 10 percent of the wholesale price.

An informed government expert told the Oil Information Agency that this step will result in an increase of retail prices of gasoline because "any taxation deals a blow to the consumer." For this reason numerous experts expect the wholesale prices to increase by 15 to 20 percent.

Officials of the Russian Fuel and Energy Ministry told the Oil Information Agency that "an essentially new tax on oil refining may affect both the refineries and the consumers."

The experts believe that the mechanism of collecting the tax would probably be explained in a letter to be sent by the Finance Ministry. They said that the decision to impose the excise was dictated by a dramatic drop of demand for oil products in Russia that was attributable to the payment crisis.

First Deputy Finance Minister Andrey Vavilov said that the excise tax was one of the steps the government had to take to increase the revenue. In an Interfax interview Thursday he emphasized that this revenue had been allowed for in drafting the 1994 budget.

"Direct taxes on manufacturing industries cannot be raised any more. Consequently, indirect taxes have to be used. True, they will hit the consumer, but they will encourage production."

Vavilov said that the excise would result in price rises. He also said that the government had submitted to the State Duma a package of steps designed to increase the budget revenue without increasing taxation. Numerous ordinances had been adopted and another set of proposals were under preparation.

Military & Nuclear Affairs

Security Council Opposes Hungarian Nuke Waste Proposal

MK0804094094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 8 Apr 94 p 3

[Ilya Bulavinov report: "Security Council Opposes Prime Minister's Decision. Viktor Chernomyrdin Cherishes Radioactive Memories of the USSR"]

[Text] Yesterday, the Security Council's Interdepartmental Commission on the Environment presented a memo to the council's secretary, Oleg Lobov, on the need to revise agreements reaffirmed during Viktor Chernomyrdin during his recent visit to Hungary. The issue is the possibility of burying radioactive wastes of the Hungarian "Paks" nuclear power station in Russia. KOMMERSANT-DAILY has learned that the prime minister discussed the impending scandal with Boris Yeltsin, too, during their meeting in Zavidovo on the evening of 6 April.

On 30 March, Viktor Chernomyrdin issued a directive tasking the Atomic Energy Ministry, upon agreement with the Foreign Ministry and the State Nuclear Supervision Committee, with signing a document with the Hungarians whereby Russia would "accept for reprocessing spent nuclear fuel of the "Paks" nuclear electric power station, with vitrified (that is, encapsulated in glass cubes) radioactive wastes of the reprocessing to be buried on Russian territory." It has turned out, however, that this is only the tip of an iceberg detected by environmentalists. In fact, the agreement to accept Hungarian radioactive wastes has been prompted not only by the desire to earn money.

Under the prime minister's directive, the Atomic Energy Ministry was to sign a protocol as part of a bilateral treaty between the Soviet Union and Hungary, which was concluded back in 1966. At the time, when building nuclear power stations abroad, Moscow usually undertook to reprocess and to store radioactive wastes on its territory. Having declared itself the legal successor to the USSR, Russia has effectively taken over the obligation.

The problem is that on 21 April 1993 Boris Yeltsin signed an edict obliging the government to make provisions for the return of nuclear wastes reprocessed (vitrified) by Russia to their respective owners when negotiating intergovernment agreements on the construction and operation of nuclear power stations abroad. Moreover, the Law on the Protection of the Environment prohibits "radioactive wastes from other states" from being brought into Russia "for the purposes of storing or burying." Under the documents, Russia has effectively no objections against the reprocessing of the wastes, but it refuses to keep them on its territory for further storage. The prime minister could hardly be unaware of the documents. During the visit, however, he preferred to bear in mind only the old treaty that suits Hungary alone. This may cost him plenty. According to KOMMERSANT-DAILY information, today the State Duma is also planning to discuss the matter of burying Hungarian wastes.

The Security Council's Interdepartmental Commission has demanded that agreements between Russia and Hungary be brought in line with the presidential edict and Russian law. The environmentalists' resolve has been boosted by the fact that representatives of the Foreign Ministry, the State Nuclear Supervision Committee, and the Environmental Protection Ministry have voiced disagreement with the draft protocol in response to the commission's unofficial requests. They have made no official denials, however, that they themselves have been involved in drafting the document. Meanwhile, radioactive waste storages in Chelyabinsk Oblast at the "Mayak" Production Association, which vitrifies nuclear wastes, have long been overfilled. The regional authorities' official stance on the "parcel" from Hungary is yet unknown—they also prefer to keep silent.

Kostikov Defends Agreement

LD0804115094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1000 GMT 8 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow April 8 TASS—The agreement to bury nuclear waste on the territory of Russia, signed by Premier Chernomyrdin in Hungary, is in line with the commitments which Russia, as the Soviet Union's successor, has to fulfill, Vyacheslav Kostikov, presidential press secretary, told a Kremlin briefing today at the request of the Russian president and prime minister. He said that the agreement, signed in Hungary, envisaged the processing and utilisation of nuclear wastes from atomic power plants built to Soviet blueprints in the Hungarian Republic. "Russia will avoid concluding such agreements as soon as the terms of the existing international contracts expire," Kostikov noted.

Komsomolets Nuclear Warheads 'Intact' on Sea Bottom

LD0704195994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1715 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] The nuclear warheads of the torpedoes in the nuclear-powered submarine Komsomolets that sank exactly five years ago in the Norwegian Sea remain intact. Officials in the Northern Fleet's press center told Interfax Thursday that radiometric and spectrometric sampling of the sea water and bottom suggested that there was no plutonium-239 in the spot where the submarine had sunk. The cesium-137 content there was one ten thousandth of the admissible value for drinking water. The gamma radiation at the sea surface ranged from 1.5 to 5 microRoentgen per hour.

The officials also said that the Semyon Dezhnyov research ship was taking samples in the area. According to the April 7 data, the radiation there stayed within background values.

The press center head Vladimir Pyzh emphasized that the Northern Fleet had never intended to make the state of affairs secret and wanted the radiation situation in that area and elsewhere where nuclear ships of other countries had sunk to be reported impartially.

He said that two Soviet and two US submarines had sunk in that area. Pyzh added that the Northern Fleet command wanted reports and forecasts on what was going on or would happen where Komsomolets had sunk to be based on specific tests and accurate data.

Other Sunken Subs, Warheads

PM0804133994 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1920 GMT 7 Apr 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast: Video report from submarine base by V. Tarasov]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Komsomolets tragedy slightly lifted the veil of secrecy shrouding the loss of submarines in the former Union. So, at present, five nuclear submarines and 43 nuclear warheads are resting on the bed of the world ocean. No doubt, many submariners today remember colleagues who failed to return. This day should rightly become a national day of commemoration for all sailors who have perished.

Nuclear Power's Share To Increase to 20 Percent

PM0804103594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 Apr 94

[RIA report: "Russian AES's Plan To Increase Power Generation"—from page I of FINANSOVYYE IZVESTIYA section]

[Text] According to Russian Atomic Energy Minister Viktor Mikhaylov, by the year 2010 it is planned to increase the amount of power generated at Russia's AES's [nuclear electric power stations] by a factor of 1.5. The country's AES's currently generate 22,000 megawatts, around 12 percent of all the power produced in the country. The proportion of atomic energy is expected to rise over the next 15 years to 20 percent. In the near future the Ministry of Atomic Energy plans to bring on stream the Kalinin, Kursk, and Novovoronezh AES's.

Khabarovsk Strategic Missile Division To Be Disbanded

MK0804125094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 8 Apr 94 p 2

[Unattributed report under the "Provincial Chronicle" rubric based on INTERFAX, AFI, POSTFACTUM, RIA-NOVOSTI materials: "Khabarovsk"]

[Text] Missile troops servicemen of a Strategic Nuclear Force division have reported the completion of their alert duty. In accordance with SALT II [as published], their unit will be disbanded and a subunit of the main center for the testing and operation of space vehicles will be deployed there on its basis.

Kostikov Explains CW Chief's Dismissal

LD0804100194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0905 GMT 8 Apr 94

[ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow, 8 Apr—"The committee for conventions on chemical and biological weapons under the Russian president agreed to the transportation and storage of poisonous substances in a major populated area. That is why its chief Anatoliy Kuntsevich was dismissed by presidential decree." This was the explanation of the wording of Kuntsevich's dismissal "for a single gross violation of duties" given by the head of state's press secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov at a briefing in the Kremlin today.

Moreover, Vyacheslav Kostikov noted that Anatoliy Kuntsevich had spent many years working on the creation of chemical weapons and "it is difficult for a person to part from his child even if the child is dangerous." For this reason, the president's press secretary said, the person dealing with the destruction of the chemical arsenal should not be one who was involved in its creation.

Grachev on Minimal Number of Recruits Needed

LD0804143294 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 1230 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev has said that only about 180,000 people can realistically be conscripted into the armed forces in spring 1994. Speaking at the Defense Collegium in Moscow, he said that for the country's defense capability to be maintained, a minimum of 700,000 new recruits should be inducted into the army and navy. Grachev said the clause in the law on defense that says the number of people in the armed

forces is restricted to one percent of the population of Russia should be changed. A million and a half is not an army but a military formation capable of undertaking local combat activity, the minister believes.

1,500 Military Enterprises To Be Privatized

LD0704200194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1715 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Russia plans to complete its program for the privatization of military enterprises by the end of 1994, said the State Committee for the Defense Industry.

According to a report prepared by the committee for parliamentary debates, more than 700 enterprises have already been privatized of a total of 1,500 subject to denationalization. "The pace of privatization in the defense industry is constantly increasing," the report says. While before 1993 it was decided to privatize 131 enterprises, by the beginning of this year the number trebled. Today another 640 are undergoing privatization, the report says.

It says privatization has been particularly intensive in the electronics, aircraft and ship-building industries. The report also says the State Committee for the Defense Industry is making serious efforts to attract capital to military enterprises. Thus, investment projects involving more than 170 enterprises are due to be carried out this year, the report says.

Federal Assembly

Yeltsin Emergency Decree on N. Ossetia Approved

LD0704120694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1131 GMT 7 Apr 94

[By Lyudmila Yermakova, ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 7 April—The Russian president's decree, "On introducing a state of emergency in parts of the Republic of North Ossetia and the Ingush Republic," which extends the state of emergency for two more months, was approved by the Federation Council today.

The situation in the zone of conflict was discussed behind closed doors for four hours, however, the issue remained open and the problem will be further discussed tomorrow. Vasiliy Tarasenko, chairman of the committee for federation affairs and regional policy, told an ITAR-TASS correspondent that attempts had been made to block the approval of the decree on various pretexts. In his view, "It is not as much a result of the conflict between the two republics as a way to influence relations between power structures in general." Unfortunately, "Politics and the stirring up of the conflict at the expense of people's sufferings interfere" in the problem of approving the presidential decree, he remarked.

Shakhray on Duma's 'Time Limit'

PM0804092394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Apr 94 p 4

[Sergey Shakhray article: "Better Fewer but Better. Duma's Time Limit Dictates That"]

[Text] Despite all the disappointments of the last few years Russians still expect positive changes from new laws. However, people should not harbor excessive illusions about everything to do with the parliament's lawmaking activity. Since such unwarranted expectations may subsequently form a basis for confrontation between society and parliament and a source of mutual recriminations between the executive and the representative authorities.

The Constitution enshrines a complex system for lawmaking in the Russian Federation. All draft laws are submitted to the State Duma. After they are adopted they are sent to the Federation Council for examination or "silent approval." Only a few laws are liable to mandatory examination by the Federation Council. The latter has the right to approve or reject a law. The Duma can "overcome" such a rejection by a two-thirds vote and then send the law to the president. The president is also entitled to send the law back to the Duma for further consideration and thus increase still further the time it takes to examine and adopt the said law. Only after all these procedures is the law signed by the president and comes into force as soon as it is published.

Thus months may elapse between the time of the Duma vote and the law's coming into force.

In view of all these factors let us take a look at the Duma's work "schedule." Its standing orders envisage that the Duma takes a vacation twice a year—in August-September and for a fortnight during the winter. Deputies spend the last week of each month working in their own districts. Thus three weeks in every month are allocated for work in the Duma proper. In December 1995 new members of the State Duma and the Federation Council will be elected. Thus, the Duma, which meets for plenary sessions twice a week, really has just 96 plenary sessions left. That also means that it has time to subject to qualified examination, adopt, and bring "to life" no more than 30 laws.

What is more, after the budget has been ratified all newly adopted laws can only be enacted as of the new fiscal year, 1995. That is a reality with which one must come to terms.

On the one hand, this procedure guarantees society against the adoption of rash and thoughtless decisions. The law is both the result of the coordination of interests in the Duma and consensus between this chamber, which represents the interests of the whole state, and the interests of components of the Russian Federation, whose representatives sit in the Federation Council. This combination of statewide interests with the interests of

every component, enshrined in the actual lawmaking procedure, is extremely essential.

But, on the other hand, this actual procedure imposes a number of moral-political obligations on all parties to the lawmaking process. In order to ensure that the legislative process does not become a "bone of contention" between society and parliament and also between the representative and executive authorities, a complex system of conciliation procedures now has to be thought out and "cranked" into action. Moreover, there are problems which require laws to be adopted very rapidly.

I think that experts and deputies from both chambers of parliament should begin working together at the stage where draft laws are prepared by Duma committees and commissions. At the same time government experts should be involved in the work on the drafts since no law requiring financial outlay can be adopted without a ruling from the government.

It is necessary to take a calm view of the situation that has developed in the "sphere of lawmaking," but in order to obtain even a minimal result one should now ponder the optimum means of organizing the lawmaking process. Therefore the main tasks today are as follows.

First, it is necessary to precisely decide the list of 30-40 priority laws relating to the most urgent economic, political, and social issues. This does not incidentally mean that the Duma should stop the work it has begun in other areas. But deputies and the public must realize at the same time that they are working on legislative material for the next parliament.

Second, many deputies must abandon the illusion that they have come to the Duma to write laws "themselves" rather than organize this work like all developed countries do. Lawmaking is just as complex a matter as any professional activity. The legislative process is strictly subordinate to the laws of formal logic. It must not allow the adoption of laws that are not written in legal language or lack financial validation. The laws must also be accompanied by packages of delegatory acts. The world has rules whereby a law is simply not examined in the absence of a package of delegatory acts and the requisite instructions.

Third and last, the texts of draft laws should be produced by professionals and submitted to parliament in 99 percent of cases by the government. Deputies should monitor this activity in the right sense of the word and voice the group interests of the voters. Their task is to "pass" the content of the draft law in line with their professional experience and knowledge. They have to check whether or not it reflects the urgent requirements of society. And in this connection voters should not make excessive demands on deputies either. They should not force them to immediately "produce" a particular law. There are some public illusions on this point too. The former Supreme Soviet adopted hundreds of laws like this, whose implementation was known in advance to be impossible. No good came of this. While creating a semblance of concern for Russia's citizens, these acts really deceived voters.

The Duma may "devise" the kind of voting machine that puts law making on a mass footing. But no political structure in the parliament today has an absolute majority and, to be honest, that is a boon for Russia. At the moment laws can only appear in our country as the result of sociopolitical compromise and accord. And that is the best result in the current conditions.

Now a few words about the priority laws. In my view the following should be part of the compulsory "30." In the political sphere—a law on political parties and laws on elections of Russia's parliament and president. In the economic sphere—a new Civil Code, amendments to the legislation on enterprises, on joint-stock companies, on the banking system, and on taxation. In the social sphere—a package of laws on protection of impoverished groups, including new (or amendments to) pension legislation. Lastly, it is very important to amend criminal legislation and the legislation on criminal procedure. A new Criminal Code and a package of laws on fighting crime are needed.

That may be everything that the Duma realistically has time for during this very short period.

Liberal Democrats, Communists Block Law on Court

LD0804103494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0907 GMT 8 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrovna]

[Text] Moscow April 8 TASS—The Liberal Democratic and Communist parties of Russia on Friday prevented the State Duma from approving the Federal Constitutional bill, "On the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation" in first reading. The bill received 247 votes "for", 51 "against", and another 87 deputies abstained. The bill fell 53 votes short of the two-thirds approval needed in the 450-member State Duma, the parliament's lower chamber.

Liberal Democratic representatives said they abstained from the vote because they believe the regulations concerning the nomination and confirmation of candidates for positions on the Constitutional Court need to be changed.

The bill, prepared in accordance with the Constitution, declares that candidates are to be nominated by the president and confirmed by the Federation Council, the upper house. The Liberal Democratic Party would like to see the candidates subject to nation-wide discussion.

Deputies from the Communist Party voted against the bill, saying that the price for their support was a series of

important amendments. They think that the Constitutional Court should have the power to independently raise the most important issues, that the State Duma should be able to propose court candidates to the president, that judges should be limited to ten years of service on the country's highest court, and that all the court's current judges should be re-elected to the expanded Constitutional Court.

The Communists' demands would automatically necessitate a constitutional amendment, since they contradict the basic law, Deputy Chairman of the Duma Mikhail Mitikov pointed out.

The State Duma committee on legislation and judicial-legal reform has been ordered to continue work on the bill. Committee Chairman Vladimir Isakov announced that there is no "tragedy" in the fact that the document, which has already been agreed upon by all the branches of power and is supported by a majority of the Duma deputies, will have to be refined some more. He expressed his assurance that the Duma would be able to reach an agreement.

Regional Affairs

Tatar Nationalists To Resume Fight for Liberation

LD0704225794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1853 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] A co-chairman of the All-Tatar Public Center (ATPC), Rashat Safin, told a news conference Thursday that the ATPC intended to launch a new stage of its struggle for the national liberation of the Tatar people and sovereignty of the Republic, following changes in the political situation inside Tatarstan such as the signing of a power-sharing treaty with Russia and the recent elections to the National Assembly.

The ATPC believes that the treaty runs counter to the Tatar Constitution, while the 13 March elections showed numerous violations of democratic principles and human rights. Under such circumstances, the ATPC will become a constructive opposition to join the political struggle for power. Until recently, the movement concentrated on developing a mechanism for consolidating the nation and stood aloof from the republic's internal problems.

According to Safin, Tatarstan took the moral lead in Russian reform as it struggled for the status of a member of a real federation. However, the treaty reiterated that Russia was a unitary state, and many republics had to follow suit, thus harming Russia as a whole.

Positively assessing the fact that such a treaty was signed, the movement pointed out that in fact the document secured the old relations between the center and a raw-material-producing appendage and did not envision equal rights.

The ATPC demanded that the Tatar Supreme Soviet assign international status to the treaty and hold parliamentary hearings on the issue. The movement insisted on the denunciation of intergovernmental economic agreements which enslave Tatarstan, according to the ATPC.

The movement said it had no confidence in Tatar President Mintimer Shaymiyev, Vice President Vasiliy Likhachev, Prime Minister Mukhammat Sabirov and the whole of government. The ATPC supported early parliamentary elections and changes in the personnel policy which was rife with nepotism.

St Petersburg Assembly Short of Requisite Quorum

PM0704151994 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 6 Apr 94 p 2

[Report by Yuriy Kukanov under the "Regional Elections" rubric: "Half an Assembly Is Still Not an Organ"]

[Text] St. Petersburg—Forty-eight hours before the second round of voting was held 3 April, the city court rejected an action brought by St. Petersburg Prosecutor's Office appealing against the mayor's decision to extend the 20 March election of a new organ of representative power by 24 hours. But this does not at all mean that the elections to the city assembly are being regarded as valid, because the Prosecutor's Office intends to appeal to the Russian Federation Supreme Court against the ruling.

Without waiting for the preliminary results of the 3 April voting, one thing can be said with certainty: The candidates elected to the city assembly do not include a single representative of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, or the "Homeland" or "Great Russia" electoral blocs, which gathered under their banners orthodox Bolsheviks, Anpilov's communist workers, and nationalist-oriented organizations. Back on 20 March the politically-aware citizens of the city on the Neva confounded sociologists, who had predicted that the main struggle would be between Communist, Liberal Democrat, and "Democratic Unity of Petersburg" bloc candidates. The last-named got the largest number of candidates for deputies' seats—18—through to the second round.

Most likely only one-half of the city assembly's 50 seats will be occupied as a result of the repeat voting. But half an assembly is still not an organ of representative power because, according to current legislation, it can be legally constituted only if two-thirds, in other words 34, deputies are present. It is proposed to elect the missing deputies in fall.

Further on Orenburg Oblast Local Election Results

PM0704113994 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 6 Apr 94 p 2

[Report by Valeriy Vedernikov under the "Regional Elections" rubric: "Directors Become Legislators"]

[Text] Certain central publications have reported that the elections in Orenburg Oblast were not valid, but they made a mistake in evidently taking on trust the protest of Presidential Representative V. Shapovalenko, who stated that the voting results in eight districts could not be declared valid. The oblast electoral commission did not consider his arguments to be convincing and "confirmed" 36 members of the legislative assembly out of the 47 needed. (In 11 districts the elections were not valid because voters did not turn out.) There is a quorum of deputies, and on 12 April the first sitting of the oblast legislative assembly will take place, at which the standing orders for work will be considered and organizational questions will be decided. At the same time the oblast electoral commission sent the Russian president a letter giving an adverse assessment of his representative's actions, considering them to be discrediting the president himself. Who exactly will assemble in the hall on Cosmonauts' Day? People who have real power in their hands. The slogan of purely "party" candidates, who suggested to voters the notion that leaders of enterprises have no business being in the legislative assembly, did not work. A total of 19 people will represent the directors' corps in the assembly. Neither did the call of the head of the oblast administration to his colleagues at city and rayon level not to run for deputy work. Virtually to a man they launched themselves into the election campaign, as a result of which 11 of them achieved their objective. The remaining seats went to representatives of a new wave—businessmen. They include, for example, V. Shcherbakov, director of "Yuzhnyy Ural," the oblast's biggest commercial bank. There will be representatives of the press in the deputies' corps—two journalists were elected.

Neither did the party principle work. Not a single "Russia's Choice" or "Democratic Russia" candidate got through. Communists and agrarians, who united in the bloc "Against Poverty, Unemployment, and Corruption," had to be content with two seats. But those elected included many who, although they do not formally belong to this bloc, sympathize with it, as they say. Those who did not heed the wish of the head of the oblast administration and who were elected to the assembly include Orenburg Mayor Gennadiy Donkovtsev, who, to give him his due, is in high standing with the city's inhabitants.

"Paradoxical as it may seem, I am against the presence of administration heads in the assembly," he told journalists. "The Executive and Legislative Branches must be separated. Otherwise, we end up controlling ourselves. Why did I myself fight for a seat in the legislative assembly? Because I saw that there would be nobody to protect the interests of the city, which accounts for one-fourth of the oblast's population...."

The city's mayor assured voters that as a deputy he would do everything to ensure that the city's economy is not so "turbulent." Well, we will wait and see.

Election Official Views Regional Results

PM0704132994 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Apr 94 First Edition pp 1-2

[Interview with A.V. Ivanchenko, first deputy chairman of the Central Electoral Commission, by Valentin Maslennikov; place and date not given: "Under the Burden of Political Assessments"]

[Text] The latest wave of election battles in the region—the largest recently—has swept Russia. In all since the new Constitution was adopted elections have already taken place in 67 krays, oblasts, national okrugs, and large cities, which are independent components of the Federation. The first results of the first regional democratic elections in our history are described by A.V. Ivanchenko, first deputy chairman of the Central Electoral Commission.

[Ivanchenko] The main result is obvious—in the absolute majority of regions fully empowered organs of representative power have been formed by democratic means. Only in a few oblasts, in particular Bryansk, Magadan, and Samara Oblasts, will by-elections have to be held.

[Maslennikov] On familiarizing yourself with our correspondents' reports from on the spot and with the items in other mass media you cannot help concluding that this wave has been particularly scandalous and revealed a mass of violations....

[Ivanchenko] An utterly wrong opinion. It is a pity that the printed and broadcast media are focusing on scandals and "snags." Of course, there were violations—quite a lot of them. And it would have been strange if we had completely avoided them, after all, it is all being done for the first time. There is nothing to be surprised about here. While there are only political assessments of the very important sociopolitical campaign that the elections represent, this bias at the initial stage is even natural. The "blunders" of all kinds are obvious and that is why they are making a din about them. But in the majority of regions everything proceeded normally. We shall become fully aware of the importance of this fact when we start to assess the legal aspect of the work that has been done.

[Maslennikov] In what does it consist?

[Ivanchenko] In the fact that we have for the first time actually had real elections in the regions. No one dragged anyone to these elections by force. No one tried to turn them into a political show. The candidate deputies were

nominated not "from labor collectives," as used to be the case, but from electoral associations and directly from voters through the collection of signatures. No one impeded the citizens' free expression of their will.

The elections are not yet completed but one can already boldly say today that a major stage has been traveled on the path of the establishment of Russian statehood. Representative organs have been created locally and by relying on them the components of the Federation will be able to build mutual relations in the field of the budget and taxes.

[Maslennikov] But are you not idealizing the results of the elections? After all, in many regions they were only barely valid because of voters' low level of activity.

[Ivanchenko] Let's be realists. Is it conceivable at the first attempt to do everything at once without hitches or glitches? And the representative organs we have acquired locally are also far from perfect. But they do exist, and that is the main thing. The experience we have accumulated will enable us to create for the next elections a base which guarantees even more precisely the observance of electoral rights at all levels, and we will correspondingly get better results.

As for the voters' passivity.... An unpleasant but entirely explicable element. People's tiredness and disillusionment and some people's distrust of the organs it was planned to form had an effect. But I think that a far greater influence was the inability and in some places the reluctance of local administrators to hold the elections in an organized manner. This can be seen particularly clearly in the example of those oblasts where the deputies' corps has been found to include mostly the administrators themselves. These shortsighted politicians are clipping their own wings. It will be no easier for them to work (yet that is precisely what they are counting on) but far harder because in the future they will have no one on whom to rely.

We have examples of some local administration representatives making inept use of the mass media and achieving results which are the opposite to those intended. Nizhniy Novgorod Governor V. Nemtsov was so absurd in supporting his nominee for the post of mayor of the oblast center that eventually this nominee was obliged to withdraw his candidacy and the elections to the post of head of the city administration were not held at all. In other words, we are learning democracy. And, unfortunately, we are learning from our own mistakes. Hence all our "snags."

[Maslennikov] But criminal charges are being brought, in Ulyanovsk or Orenburg, for instance. Passions are erupting at meetings, as was the case in St. Petersburg....

[Ivanchenko] And I see nothing terrible in that. Since a competitive struggle is under way there will be losers. But many of us do not know how to lose and start to brandish our fists after the fight. We should have thought about it before and prepared for the elections in good time. For instance, in Orenburg, if the local statute on elections had clearly prescribed the procedure for counting votes there would have been no conflict with the losing candidates from the "Democratic Russia" electoral association.

[Maslennikov] So will we continue to learn from bumps and bruises?

[Ivanchenko] Not only that way. The Central Electoral Commission in conjunction with several State Duma committees, the Federation Council, the Ministry of Justice, and the Ministry Nationalities Affairs and Regional Policy, have prepared a draft law on the fundamental guarantees of Russian Federation citizens' electoral rights. The negative elements which appeared during the elections may have been possible because we did not have this law. This legal act will make it possible not only to guarantee the rights of citizens at elections of all levels but will also make it possible to unify voting technology and set up the compilation of electoral lists and will provide for the procedure for appealing against illegal actions by all participants in elections both to higher-level electoral commissions and in court. The new law will give freedom to express their will to citizens and parties, for after all we still cannot speak seriously of a real multiparty system at regional level.

[Maslennikov] Where else are elections to be held in the immediate future?

[Ivanchenko] In April it is planned to hold elections in Sverdlovsk Oblast, Chukotsk Autonomous Okrug, and Karelia. let us hope that here some lessons of previous rounds will be considered and a number of errors will not be repeated. As for the definitive assessments, let us not be in a hurry and be too categorical. Who will venture now to judge whether good or bad representative organs have been elected locally? Life itself will show how the reforms will proceed further, what results they will bring, and how mutual relations between the federal center and the regions will take shape. If these relations are not formed then we shall get an opposition force even from ideally selected representative organs. And I should like primarily to warn against haste in making political assessments and to remind you that the transition to democracy is an evolutionary rather than a revolutionary process and it cannot take place in an instant.

Illegal Migration Turns Kuban Into 'Cesspit'

PM0704154194 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 5 Apr 94 p 3

[Report by Irina Kiryanova: "Kuban Will Warm, Feed, and...Expel. Hunt on for Foreigners in Southern Russia. From Near Abroad"]

[Text] For several years now Kuban society has been in a state close to panic owing to the intensive immigration into the kray of refugees from all corners of the former Union. At present, the actual number of migrants in the region is put by experts at 600,000. It is not surprising

that real estate prices here are growing faster than anywhere in Russia, and that public health conditions have sharply deteriorated. Competition for jobs has become tougher, and there is no need to talk about crime—the Russian minister of internal affairs, who recently visited Krasnodar, confirmed what everyone already knew—that Krasnodar Kray has a steady lead in this area.

Another detail of some importance is that in recent years the Kuban has virtually become a no-man's land or joint rear area (quite safe and therefore particularly convenient and attractive) for at least three warring states....

Fear of being buried under the debris of other people's disasters is forcing the Kuban authorities to take increasingly severe administrative measures. As of April last year the registration of citizens from the near abroad has been under way in the kray. In the space of 12 months the Kuban has expelled around 700 unregistered migrants, and the fines levied on miscreants total 76 million rubles [R]. Total fines levied on illegal migrants have come to R46 million in the first quarter of this year alone....

The Kuban authorities used B. Yeltsin's vacation in Sochi to try to persuade the president "on the spot" of the need for further steps in this direction. As a result, the presidential "go-ahead" was given for the introduction of a visa system in the kray, and the Kuban governor immediately signed the relevant decree. It came into force the other day.

Will this turn into a painful offensive against human rights in the kray? Mikhail Savva, chief of the kray administration for nationalities affairs and migration issues, replied categorically in the negative. The decree does not apply to Russian citizens at all, much less to "foreigners from far away." The decree is aimed at our homegrown "near abroad." Movement of these citizens around Russia has hitherto been entirely uncontrolled. Paradoxical situations have emerged: For instance, one such foreigner, exploiting his absolute freedom, committed a crime on Russian territory and went back home—from where it subsequently proved exceptionally difficult to extradite him ("Sorry, we're a sovereign country...").

As for human rights, Mikhail Savva said, they are being trampled not in the kray, but rather in Moscow, which is creating such an amazing normative base that the provinces have simply been forced to protect themselves. For instance, just what are we to make of an open border with Azerbaijan—which, in its turn, has an open border with Iran and Turkey? This means one thing—we have been turned into a cesspit, a sieve, a transit lounge....

The kray administration's administration for nationalities affairs and migration issues has drawn up a document entitled "Description of the Economic Situation and Likely Scenarios for the Development of Events in the Caucasus," setting out a concept for the kray's "Caucasian" policy. Among the main tasks it mentions are to protect the rights of Russians in the Caucasus and to reduce the criminal influence exerted on the kray by neighboring republics.

As for the rumors in the press that certain emergency measures will soon be introduced in Krasnodar Kray—along the lines of Tatarstan—we can only say that deep in the bowels of the administration work is indeed being done on a number of "hardline" documents within the framework of the latest attempt to launch an anticrime offensive. But these documents have no direct bearing on the visa regime.

Vorkuta's Financial, Social Problems Detailed

PM0704091594 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 6 Apr 94 p 7

[Report by Tatyana Borisevich under the "Nonpayments and Family Budget" rubric: "Not Only Is There No Money To Live On, There Is None for Funerals Either"]

[Text] All through the last few months, Vorkuta has been living in a strike regime. The strike at the "Severnaya" pit ends, another one begins at the "Komsomolskaya." "Yur-Shor" miners come up to the surface, mine constructors refuse to leave the coal face. A hunger strike ends in one place and begins in another. The center of tension swings like a pendulum. But it can be used like a compass to follow who has been given money and who has not. Money is usually given after a strike—especially a hunger strike.

Money. This is the leash with which the government keeps Vorkuta in check, by relaxing or tightening it. But this is for the time being. Only recently the miners were demanding only money. Now, they are coming out with political slogans. In time everything is possible, even including acts of sabotage. Threats have already been made.

All pits are state-owned. The debtors are, therefore, well known. The Russian Government is not allocating subsidies and is not setting aside money for the social sphere. Consumers—Cherepovets, Lipetsk, and Moscow—are not paying for shipped coal. There are also factors which are purely Vorkuta's miscalculations: unprofitable barter, high cost price, financial defects. Pits have no money—there will not be any in the budget either. Therefore, the picture is very confused. Sorting it out is as difficult as working out what people who have not received wages since last December are living on.

While strikes are "paying off" for the miners, after which they are paid either an advance of 100,000-200,000 rubles [R] each or else their full wage, the situation in the social sphere is much worse. The coal sector has on its balance sheet two-thirds of Vorkuta's housing, almost 70 kindergartens, and other social facilities. All these economic activities require R40 billion per month, which should be financed from the Russian budget under a separate heading. Since the beginning of the year not a penny has gone to Vorkuta under this heading. Mainly

women work in the social sphere. All well and good if some of them have husbands who are miners. The rest are simply doomed.

Women's movement activists have recounted how they went around visiting families on a holiday. One family had only toast on the table, and when the women started treating the children to candy the mother's nerves snapped and she became hysterical.

Announced and unannounced hunger strikes, unemployment, the abolition of benefits for medicines for children and pensioners—all this is Vorkuta today. All it needs is a small push and an explosion will be inevitable.

A school principal relates: "The last time I received money was in January. It was R25,000." "How are you surviving?" "At first we ate our reserves, now we are eating only groats and we have had to sell some things from our home."

Here is the testimony of A. Stepanov, chairman of the Council of Vorkuta Directors: "Not only is there no money to live on, there is none for funerals either. We are all hostages."

The natural question arises: "How much high-energy Vorkuta coal does Russia need? For what quantity of it will Russia guarantee payment? Judging by the draft budget, the sector will receive one-half of the funds it is demanding. This means that the financial reorganization [sanatsiya] of pits is inevitable. For example, the program to close the "Khalmer-Yu" pit in Vorkuta has now been costed out. Its production capacity is 410,000 tonnes a year and it has around 2,000 employees. Expenditure on closing the pit and social welfare for its workers is in excess of R43 billion. This is only for one, which is by no means the biggest pit.

Both the development of the Pechora coal basin and its mothballing are equally heavy burdens for the budget. But enough time has already been spent standing at the crossroads.

International Affairs

Deputy Premier Receives Polish Defense Minister

LD0704221694 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1330 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Kiev 7 Apr—The press service of Ukraine's president and Cabinet of Ministers has reported that on 7 April Valeriy Shmarov, Ukraine's deputy prime minister for the military-industrial complex received Polish Defense Minister Piotr Kolodziejdzyk who is on the second day of an official visit to Ukraine.

A wide range of issues of mutual interest were discussed. Anatoliy Lopata, chief of the general staff of Ukraine's Armed Forces took part in the talks from the Ukrainian side, and Jerzy Kozakiewicz, the Polish ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Ukraine, took part from the Polish side. [passage omitted]

Arms Procurement Discussed

LD0704223594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1359 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] As the agency INTERFAX-Ukraine learned, at their meeting on 7 April Polish Defense Minister Piotr Kolodziejdzyk and Ukraine's Vice Premier Valeriy Shmarov discussed the possibility of mutual shipments of military equipment and weapons. The parties approved the idea to create a Ukrainian-Polish bank to finance the programs related to repair of military equipment and conversion.

On 6 April in Kiev, Polish Defense Minister Piotr Kolodziejdzyk met with the Machine Building, Military-Industrial Complex, and Conversion Minister Dmitriy Chernenko and discussed the possibility of Ukraine's participation in the modernization and repair of the Polish-used military equipment.

Dmitriy Chernenko reported to INTERFAX-Ukrai ne that the meeting was held on the initiative of the Polish side and covered issues related to cooperation between Poland's Defense Ministry and Ukraine's Machine Building, Military-Industrial Complex, and Conversion Ministry.

Currently the Polish Army is primarily armed with the military equipment produced in the former USSR. According to experts, Poland can now procure about 40 percent this equipment from Ukraine. Ukraine also has great know-how in the sphere of repairing military equipment and, in particular, aircraft.

The parties expressed interest in possible cooperation in the field of conversion in order to conclude contracts with the conversion enterprises in Dnepropetrovsk.

On 6 April, Vitaliy Radetskyy and Piotr Kolodziejdzyk, Ukrainian and Polish Defense Ministers discussed the possibility of joint maneuvers in the bordering regions and cooperation in the sphere of air defense.

In the course of negotiations in Kiev the parties reached an agreement that expert groups of their rspective military departments will hold consultations on technical maintenance and logistic support.

As Radetskyy underlined in his interview with the national radio, "today the Ukrainian and Polish Armies are practically facing identical tasks."

Kravchuk Praises Talks

WS0704184394 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] If the Polish-Ukrainian talks provide good results on such delicate issues as defense, this testifies to the fact that relations between our people and states are based on understanding and confidence. This was said by Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk during a meeting with Polish Defense Minister Piotr Kolodziejczyk. The head of the Ukrainian state and the chief of the Polish defense department discussed a wide range of issues concerning deepening [word indistinct] cooperation, including defense, as well as protecting peace and stability in the region.

The official visit of the Polish Armed Forces delegation to Ukraine continues. Today, the Polish servicemen also met with Deputy Prime Minister Valeriy Shmarov, and visited the Kiev Military Institute of Administration and Communication and the Antonov Scientific Technical Center.

Zlenko on Economic Ties With Poland, U.S. 'Partnership'

WS0504115294 Kiev SAMOSTIYNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 27 Mar 94 p 4

[Interview with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko by Myroslav Levytskyy: "Ukraine Expects Accord"]

[Text] In the busy schedule of Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatolyy Zlenko, 21 to 22 March is reserved for an official visit to Poland. Before his departure to Warsaw, he gave an interview to our correspondent. Minister Zlenko emphasized that Ukraine attaches special attention to Poland both in terms of politics and diplomacy. For Ukraine, the existence of independent Poland is of strategic importance, as is the existence of independent Ukraine for Poland.

Ukraine expects that the visit to Poland will help it achieve more understanding in interstate relations, stabilize relations, encourage closer cooperation and coordination of efforts on the international arena—both in the system of international organizations and regional cooperation.

[Levytskyy] The opinion is widely held that Ukrainian-Polish economic relations are not developing in an appropriate way.

[Zlenko] Over the past two years of Ukrainian-Polish relations, a relevant legal base was created and 45 necessary agreements were signed, a considerable portion of which are in the economic sphere. However, figures for Ukrainian-Polish trade do not reflect potential opportunities. The $500 million is far from the level that would give either side the feeling of fully exploited opportunities and mutually beneficial economic cooperation. Economic agreements should receive more attention, and we must also create mechanisms for their implementation.

[Levytskyy] Still, which of the 45 agreements with Poland have already brought tangible results?

[Zlenko] Almost all of them work at present, but not at their full capacity, though.

[Levytskyy] In January and in early February, the U.S.-devised "Partnership for Peace" initiative received very mixed opinions. Now, six weeks after Ukraine became a member of the "Partnership," could you point to any concrete advantages that membership in this initiative has given Ukraine?

[Zlenko] Ukraine was the first CIS country to join this program. We did this to hold relevant consultations, acquire relevant experience in military and political spheres, and finally, to resolve issues of our national security through the "Partnership." We are currently preparing a document outlining forms and extension of Ukraine's participation in the "Partnership."

We are working hard on this document. We will determine everything that is of any interest for Ukraine, based on our possibilities, including economic ones, so that we could definitely establish the volume of our cooperation with that program.

[Levytskyy] But I am curious what price Ukraine will have to pay for its participation in the "Partnership?"

[Zlenko] This question cannot be answered before we finish our document.

[Levytskyy] What economic effects will political participation in this program have on Ukraine?

[Zlenko] The "Partnership" program is first of all military and political in nature. But the very fact of cooperation in the framework of this program, the fact of agreement, can incline our partners to also resolve economic issues. We do not link our membership in this program with resolving economic problems. We see it in the much broader context.

[Levytskyy] Political parties in Poland, Ukraine, and other former socialist camp countries are actively discussing the idea of creating a political and economic center or an alliance for coordination of efforts. Promoters of such an alignment dubbed it the "Inter-Sea Area" [Mizhmorya]. Are you familiar with this initiative? What do you think about it?

[Zlenko] We have an initiative intended to establish a zone of stability and security in the Central and Eastern Europe. We are working on this idea, and have conducted organizational measures—also with the participation of countries that expressed their interest in it. I believe I gave a comprehensive answer to your question. We are proceeding from the assumption that some kind of security vacuum is emerging in Europe which needs to be filled.

This initiative could be used to solve all issues based on trust and the creation of the political climate so that it could serve as a preventive measure. This would allow us to preempt events, instead of following them, as is the case in the Balkans.

No matter what name this initiative has—the "Inter-Sea Area," "Inter-Ocean Area," or "Between Heaven and the Earth"—it is designed to provide conditions for national security guarantees.

[Levytskyy] Jacek Kuron and other Polish politicians have repeatedly stressed that Ukrainian-Polish relations could only get rid of negative tendencies when Polish history is written by Ukrainians and vice versa. What is your attitude toward this problem?

[Zlenko] This problem was discussed during my first visit to Poland in 1992. We agreed on the need to write such history. We have reached understanding. Unfortunately, this is idea is unfolding very slowly. However, it is not dead. Joint commissions are actively working on revising history textbooks. This work is drawing to a close.

[Levytskyy] One more question regarding mutual understanding. An idea was proposed some time ago to cast Polish television programs to Ukraine, and Ukrainian to Poland...

[Zlenko] This is an interesting thought. However, it needs some work yet. The Ukrainian State Television is putting together its programs intended to access other countries. This issue needs to be specified so one can develop a clear position and know how to implement this idea.

[Levytskyy] Some delegations, Polish among them, met with representatives of political parties on their visits to Ukraine. At present, there are three directions in the Polish Eastern policy—the first one is orientation toward Moscow, the second gives priority to cooperation with Ukraine and Belarus, while the third option advocates the soonest possible jump into the United Europe with no regard to the fate of Eastern neighbors. Do you plan to meet with any leaders of political parties?

[Zlenko] We orient ourselves toward the Polish official policy. Besides, I have plenty of meetings in the government, Sejm, and Senate that will give me the picture of current trends. But let me stress it again—we are primarily oriented toward the official politics.

Foreign Minister Deems Relations With Russia 'Priority'

WS0704163294 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1400 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] In the opinion of Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko, relations with Russia are a priority in our foreign policy. In an interview with UKRINFORM, the foreign minister emphasized that [word indistinct] relations between Ukraine and Russia serve not only the interests of our two countries, but also Europe in general. The minister also stated that the process of fulfilling the tripartite agreements of the Ukrainian, U.S., and Russian presidents on our nonnuclear status and guarantees for us has already begun. He emphasized, however, that all the sides must adhere to their commitments, which will ensure fulfillment of the agreements.

Nationalists Seek Ouster of Russians From Fleet

LD0704180194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1601 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow 7 April, TASS—The commanders of nine units of the Black Sea Fleet have lately received letters signed by leaders of the Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalists who threatened them with physical reprisals, the Black Sea Fleet press centre said.

The press centre described the letters as a form of psychological pressure on the Black Sea Fleet Command.

Commanders of a training unit of one of the fleet bases were warned that "in the event of combat activities or hostilities" their unit will be subject to "extermination by sabotage and fire." Other letters demand that Russian servicemen leave Ukraine under threat of physical revenge.

The letters correctly name the numbers of all military units and their phone numbers.

National Affairs

Crimean President Blasts Ukraine for Interference

LD0704170794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1547 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Report By UKRINFORM correspondent Lev Ryabchikov for TASS]

[Text] Simferopol 7 April, TASS—"Kiev continues to prevent us from tackling the economy in earnest and pushes for confrontation," Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov told a news conference in Simferopol on Thursday.

Speaking about his attitude towards Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk's decision to appoint his representative in the Crimea, Meshkov said "this happened at the most difficult stage of the establishment of the Crimea's statehood, on the eve of the elections to the parliament."

"But we will do everything possible in order that elections go off successfully on 10 April," he added. He said that the Crimea has lost Valeriy Gorbatov, who has been appointed Kravchuk's representative in the Crimea, as its citizen.

Meshkov also spoke about the results of his trip to Cyprus where he had reached an agreement to open a Cypriot trade office in the Crimea. Documents to this effect will be signed during Cypriot leaders' visit to the Crimea.

Meshkov Condemns Leadership, Corrects 'Mistakes'

WS0704154794 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1400 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov held a news conference today devoted to the latest events in Crimea's political and economic life. He negatively commented on the introduction of the office of the Ukrainian president's representative in Crimea, describing this step as a political provocation aimed at hindering the second round of elections for the Crimean Supreme Council. Regarding presidential representative Valeriy Horbatov, Yuriy Meshkov said in a televised interview yesterday that Crimean interests are Horbatov's least concern, and that a honest man who cherishes these interests will not shake his hand. At the news conference, Meshkov added that the Republic of Crimea has lost one of its citizens. In a sharp and even offensive tone, Meshkov spoke of the Ukrainian leadership, which, in his opinion, prevents the Crimea from dealing with its economy, provokes confrontation, and creates tensions on the peninsula. The presence of military subunits saturated—as he put it—with nationalistic spirit not only does not guarantee Crimean security, but also threatens it.

Many questions from journalists concerned relations between Yuriy Meshkov and Crimean Deputy Prime Minister Yevhen Saburov. Meshkov stated that he corrected Saburov's mistakes by issuing another decree. Effective today, the previous low prices for bread are reinstated in the Crimea. The Crimean president does not share the concern that Saburov might be dismissed, which is being voiced behind the scenes.

Kravchuk Adviser Warns Meshkov 'Poses World Danger'

LD0704222394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1359 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] "Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov poses a danger to the world as well as Europe because his hasty actions might turn the Crimea into a hot spot," Nikolay

Mikhalchenko, Ukrainian president's chief adviser on domestic issues told INTERFAX-Ukraine Thursday.

In his words, "if the situation is further destabilized in the Crimea, the Ukrainian authorities will do their best to have the Constitution of Ukraine respected and observed in the Crimea."

Mikhalchenko emphasized his absolute confidence that the new Ukrainian parliament will confirm the views of the previous one on the Crimea.

He said that certain people in the Crimea had for months been trying to provoke a deterioration of Russo-Ukrainian relations.

Mikhalchenko emphasized that Ukraine had on every occasion responded to specific violations of the Constitution and the law, "never precipitating the events. Kiev has done nothing that can be described as extremist or provocative."

He asked, "How can the Crimea be allowed to do what its authorities want while the Crimean president teaches contempt of legality to his citizens?"

Kravchuk Views Prospect of Elections, Assails Kuchma

AU0704142494 Kiev MOLOD UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 5 Apr 94 p 1

[UNIAN report on interview with Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk by unidentified journalists: "The USSR Will Never Be Reestablished...."]

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk visited the UNIAN Agency and answered questions by journalists of the information agency and representatives of other mass media.

[Question] Proceeding from the results of the 27 March voting, please try to forecast the results of the second round of the Supreme Council elections. What steps will you take if less than 126 people's deputies are elected; what will you do if the number will range between 126 and 300; and, the third variant—if more than 300 people's deputies are elected?

[Kravchuk] These are first elections in Ukraine as an independent state. That is why one cannot expect the highest level of democracy from them. No serious conflicts took place during the elections. There were isolated cases of unethical conduct. There were no conflicts involving rallies or strikes.

I would like one variant—that a Supreme Council be elected and that the new Supreme Council do the following: First, adopt constitutional laws without which it is no longer possible to live, namely, on local power structures, the range of their jurisdiction, and the law on the President in accordance with Ukraine's Constitution. If these two laws are adopted, the [presidential] elections will be held on 26 June.

[Question] Who, in your opinion, can postpone the presidential elections: the new Supreme Council or, under certain circumstances, this can be done by the president?

[Kravchuk] It would be best if the new Supreme Council does this, because it would be a legitimate step.... However, in order for it to do this, it must be elected—it is the most important problem.

[Question] In the opinion of experts, Belarus has embarked upon a road that may become the beginning of the renewal of the Union. How can this influence Ukraine's position with regard to the CIS?

[Kravchuk] Let us start with two important theses. First, the Soviet Union will never be reestablished. The second thesis lies in the fact that the CIS was not created as a Union and it is impossible to transform the CIS into the Union on the basis of those formative documents that were adopted by us.... It took the members of the European Union 35 years to create it, whereas we expect to do this by a single decision. It cannot be done by a decision. If there are no preconditions, no mechanisms will function. In my opinion, we must use the potential of the CIS and the potential of relations between states. Decisions on next steps must be adopted after asking the advice of the people and of the parliaments.

[Question] What is your attitude toward the statement by Ukraine's people's deputy Leonid Kuchma to the effect that people with "clean hands" must make Ukraine's new policy?

[Kravchuk] I read that statement. The former prime minister, who is presently president of the Ukrainian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, made his analysis proceeding from the facts of real life. However, for me, there arises one moral problem, more specifically, the answer to the question of who has led to this. The person who was also in the government and who put in effort to create the present situation is trying to shift the blame onto the government, the president, and other executive structures.

When Leonid Danylovych was "in power," the prices jumped tenfold and the correlation between the fund of consumption and the fund of accumulation was distorted. The worst cataclysms and strikes occurred precisely at that time. If you take the decrees adopted by the Kuchma government, those decrees have overturned everything. Today, I am signing guarantees for foreign firms that want, for example, to built the [oil] terminal. After those decrees, they no longer trust our laws. It is the most terrible thing to lose the trust of investors....

In one of his recent statements, Leonid Kuchma stated as a goal the need to remove Kravchuk's "power party" from the leadership. When Vyacheslav Chornovil says such things, I can understand it (even though he also belonged to the "power party" when he headed the Lvov Oblast Council). However, for Leonid Kuchma, the "power party" was the "cradle." The "Pivdenmash"

Production Association is the state within a state. Such a status made it possible to have everything that could be had: Kuchma was a member of the Communist Party Central Committee, a deputy, a director, and secretary of the Party Committee. Even now, Kuchma belongs to the "power party," because he heads the Ukrainian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs. Does he have a moral right to call for the removal of the "power party?" It is not for nothing that people ask: "And pray who are the judges?" [quotation from Griboyedov's play]

When Kuchma decided to quit the post of prime minister, we said that relations between us must remain normal. All of a sudden, Leonid Kuchma seems to have forgotten what he was saying to me. I did not see such cases anywhere in the world when a person who has left his post raises so much ado.... I have expressed my point of view, I kept silence [before], but I have said it now. If need be, I will say it again.

[UNIAN] Commenting upon the statement at the electoral station by the Supreme Council chairman Ivan Plyushch to the effect that only those people who are not sure of their strength are afraid to go to elections, Leonid Kravchuk said:

[Kravchuk] You will not succeed in causing me to fall out with Ivan Stepanovych [Plyushch]. He and I have shared and continue to share the same point of view on constitutional processes. When the Supreme Council is elected, it must adopt constitutional laws on local power structures and on the president....

Kravchuk News Conference on Election, Economy

LD0704150394 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1924 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Report on news conference by President Leonid Kravchuk from the Market Reforms Press Center in Kiev by Volodymyr Kuzmenko; date not given—all of Kravchuk's comments are recorded]

[Text] [Kuzmenko] So, one of the first questions to the president was this: After December 1991, the society of Ukraine has suffered many delusions. In connection with this, which one of them has proved to be the most harmful? This is how Leonid Kravchuk answered:

[Kravchuk] Our greatest delusion was the euphoria of a quick resolution of any problems posed by life. It seems to me that euphoria is a product of little or insufficient knowledge of the situation: The less one knows about this or that subject—this, incidentally, is a philosophical interpretation—the simpler and (?very much clearer) everything seems to one. So, I would like to repeat this, the euphoria of the possibility to resolve any problems quickly due to insufficient knowledge or information of a distorted nature, is the greatest danger.

[Kuzmenko] Quite acute, I think, was a question asking the president whether he was not ashamed at Ukrainian Acting Prime Minister Yefim Zvyahilskiy's actions. The journalist's opinion was that these actions were antimarket.

[Kravchuk] I would like to specify one detail. The Zvyahilskiy government as such is nonexistent. This is the government which was left by Prime Minister Kuchma. This government, in its full composition, was not reshuffled. Taking into account the situation which took shape on the eve of the new elections, we considered it to be inexpedient [to change the government]. In other words, as the president, it seemed to me that the majority of deputies at first agreed to the fact that it would just be inexpedient to form a new government for six months, because it is clear that the new parliament would form a new government. And this is only natural.

I cannot say that I am ashamed of the Zvyahilskiy government because, despite the situation, it is exactly now, although with difficulty, that the reform began to make its first steps and we began to earn some currency to pay Russia for the power sources. But the real fact is that the first steps toward reforms, toward privatization, toward... [pauses] We are on the eve of possible... [pauses] preparation of the monetary reform. This is a reality. This is why now one cannot blame the government that works... [pauses] that we must be ashamed of it. I would not like to discuss and use such categories altogether. Every government is doing what it can. It cannot do more than that. The next government will probably do more, I am convinced of this.

[Kuzmenko] Answering the question on a concept of economic independence for Ukraine's separate regions, President Kravchuk said:

[Kravchuk] I adhere to the idea that regions should have the broadest possible economic independence. This refers to the mobilization of incomes, the administration of incomes, budgetary relations, the use of property, if this is the state property, the management of the property. Everything which has to do with production and social relations... [pauses] and they should have appropriate legally approved sources of receipts and they should work without the center.

As far as political federalization is concerned, I believe that this issue is premature. I do not rule out a possibility of working out political institutions, too, in future, on the basis of working out mechanisms of economic independence. But to raise the issue on complete federalization of our, for example, state today, immediately... [pauses] Well, first, this is objectively impracticable and, second, this could certainly affect both the reforms and all other political and economic processes, even to endanger the possibility of preserving the integrity of the state as such.

[Kuzmenko] In the context of this, the Market Reforms Press Club's sitting did not abstain from topical questions on the subject of Crimea. Explaining his position on this issue, the Ukrainian president said:

[Kravchuk] I favor the idea of granting the broadest possible economic powers to Crimea. I had a talk with the president, with [word indistinct] Saburov on these issues. I understand that it would not be easy to coordinate their economic independence with the legislation currently in force in Ukraine. However, there is the president's decree on granting relevant economic status to Crimea. Such a decree does exist, and proceeding from this decree and the law on the delimitation of plenary powers between Ukraine and Crimea, I believe that it is necessary to conduct a flexible policy here. One can even say that we could consider Crimea as a testing ground for economic reforms, if they would have been carried out there.

As far as other issues are concerned, now noneconomic issues are being aggravated. Not a single economic decree has been issued in Crimea so far, and no economic decisions have been made either. There is a decree on a referendum, we had to revoke it; a decree on changing over to Moscow time; and a groundless dismissal of Astakhov from the post of the chairman of the TV and radio company [of Crimea]. By the way, today I rescinded this decree by Meshkov. That is to say, excuse me for saying this, there is a political intrigue. There is a gross violation of the legislation by the president of Crimea, and not only the legislation of Ukraine, but his own legislation, according to the principle: There is the president, the people, and God. This is a dangerous stand, a dangerous policy. I believe that this is just some kind of misunderstanding. Maybe, these are the first steps of euphoria. I am waiting for this to stop. This cannot last forever. As far as economy is concerned, I am ready, and I again say we and the government are all ready to consider the issue so that the economy of Crimea would work in the interests of the people.

[Kuzmenko] Among the questions asked at the meeting, was the following: What importance and significance does the president attach to private capital in Ukraine's market reforms, and what is the role this capital can play in the sphere of the economy in the very near future? Here is how Mr. Kravchuk explained it:

[Kravchuk] There cannot be a real, civilized market without private ownership, without private capital and accordingly without banks and without financial structures. I am in favor of resolutely going in this direction. Resolutely!

What needs to be done, let us say, in terms of privatization in the broad sense of the word is the Supreme Council should adopt a provision that land together with the facilities can be an object of purchase and sale. This is the one thing that needs to be done.

I issued a directive stating that we were to sell incomplete- construction together with the land. Immediately, the land code was amended stopping it. That is, this is unrealistic until there is clarity on this issue, in parliament and executive power and at local authorities, that land is an object of purchase and sale together with the facilities built on it.

[Kuzmenko] The Ukrainian president said that inconsistent, irregular progress along the path of reforms was primarily caused by the government's ineffective actions. A correspondent asked the president a question about the idea of cancelling the early presidential election [on 26 June]. This is how Leonid Kravchuk commented on this situation:

[Kravchuk] I do not wish to alter my point of view. I expressed myself in favor of both early parliamentary and presidential elections. I am not altering this position. I only repeat that one cannot do the electing without knowing who to elect. This is why my view is this: The new parliament, I once again emphasize, cannot stand aside. It is simply impossible to imagine that there already is a new parliament. The election is drawing nearer and parliament is not voicing its view. It must express itself prior to the election on principle. This purely is a parliamentary prerogative. People are (?demanding this).

The status of the president is to be determined. The main parameters of executive power, its plenary and functional powers, and cooperation, are to be determined at constitutional level. This has to be a constitutional law. It cannot be otherwise. And only then, an election is to be appointed. That is all. If they manage to have it done by 26 June, the presidential election will go ahead on 26 June. But what if not? The new parliament all of sudden says: Let the president be elected on the basis of the powers that exist today under the old law. Well, there will be an election then. What else can be done?

One should, however, forecast the situation that there will be tomorrow. What can this lead to? One can take a purely legal stand and say: We adopted and signed [a decree on the presidential election], so let us execute it and not a step backwards. Can this be done? Yes, it can. But the situation has changed in time. Look at what difficulties have arisen in the economy and what processes have begun regionally, for instance, in Crimea and all. Not to see all this and not to take all this into consideration and just to say there should be elections for the sake of elections, I cannot.

I do not decide. As president, however, I cannot be silent and not tell the people what has happened and what can happen. I have my personal view, but I do not decide it. The election must take place, but with the powers and functions expressly determined at constitutional level with the participation of the new parliament. Nobody will make me change my mind. If this is to be without me, let them decide. After all, I am not blocking these processes.

[Kuzmenko] It is known that Ukraine is preparing to introduce its own currency unit. In this connection, the

president said the transition to the hryvnya would be open and would take account of the interests of all Ukrainian citizens.

[Kravchuk] There is another problem which is that of the hryvnya's stabilization fund. When we settle all the issues with the International Monetary Fund [IMF] and manage to clarify all those budgetary and other matters, the IMF will grant us a stabilization credit. This is very important and it will be hard to work without this.

I would still like to return to commodity bonds. The Supreme Council vetoed them. There were opportune remarks. We now have worked this document over and its character now is entirely different. We have set up Ukraine's Credit Fund, which will specifically deal with attracting credit, including through commodity bonds of Ukraine's material resources rather than its national ones. It will be entities engaging in economic activity that will be responsible for the credit granted, rather than the whole of Ukraine, who was granted responsibility for it. That is, a clearer and more understandable mechanism has been worked out and it should be put into practice because credits have to be attracted. This money will primarily be invested, because it will have to be returned at a relatively low interest rate of up to around 7 percent, which is a normal international interest rate.

Tasks of Kravchuk's Representative in Crimea Outlined

LD0704224194 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1625 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Simferopol [no dateline as received]—Mykola Mykhalchenko, the head of the Ukrainian president's service, who is now in Simferopol, held a news conference on 7 April. He told journalists that the appointment of the president's representative in Crimea was caused not only by the latest decrees by Yuriy Meshkov, but also by the resolutions of the Supreme Council of Ukraine that stipulate that the representation be introduced and a president's representative appointed in one month's time. The aim of the appointment is to remove opposition between Ukraine and Crimea.

Mykola Mykhalchenko reported that the Ukrainian president's representative in Crimea will supervise the fulfillment of the Constitution of Ukraine on the territory of the Crimea Republic and the fulfillment of the law on the delimitation of powers between the state power bodies of Ukraine and the Crimea Republic. He will be Ukraine's top official in charge of foreign political issues and will coordinate the actions by the power structures. The head of the Ukrainian president's service also pointed out that, in compliance with the law, the president and the Supreme Council of Crimea could sign agreements in economic and cultural spheres, and establish trade missions. However, the law does not envisage that they should perform diplomatic functions.

Kuchma Pledges To Create 'Strong Center' in Parliament

LD0704222094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1359 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] "I intend to create a strong center in the newly-elected parliament in order to oppose both the right-and left-oriented forces," President of the Ukrainian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (UUIE) and Ukraine's ex-premier Leonid Kuchma announced at a press conference on 6 March in Lvov.

During the first round of voting to the Ukrainian parliament Communists gained a substantial success in Eastern Ukraine and National Democrats and National Radicals—in Western Ukraine.

The second voting in elections to the parliament will be held 9-10 April.

In Kuchma's opinion, Ukraine "has already crossed the threshhold beyond which is mass industrial recession." He placed the responsibility for this on the government and National Bank.

As Kuchma said, he will insist "on the need for a single economic space without which the republics of the former USSR cannot survive."

Means To Encourage Investment Scored

944K1044A Donetsk AKTSENT in Russian 6 Apr 94 p 1

[Article by PRESSOVA AGENTSIYA NOVIN correspondent G. Cherniy, special for AKTSENT: "Laxatives for Ukraine"]

[Text] The Ukraine Law "On Making Changes and Addition To the Ukraine Law 'On Liens,'" signed by President of Ukraine L. Kravchuk on 25 February, went into effect last week. Now the Ukrainian lien law allows a foreign investor, in the event of debtor's delinquency or insolvency, to be compensated by real estate.

At the same time, the latest wording of this law dispelled the last doubt regarding the supreme executive authorities' plans for state property and the course of privatization in Dnepropetrovsk, Zaporozhye, Lugansk, and Donetsk Oblasts, whose administrations now have the right to decide on the fate of mortgage deals. Let us recall: "A state enterprise (as a rule, already beached—author's note), to which property is attached with right of full economic maintenance, may on its own mortgage this property, with the exception of an integrated property complex, its structural units, buildings, and structures, which may be mortgaged with permission and on terms approved by the body authorized to administer corresponding state property."

It this good or bad? It is so good that it frightens me. It is good because despite completely unfounded resistance on the part of the parliament, President L. Kravchuk did find a way to attract large investors to Ukraine. After all,

in the sphere of investment activities Ukraine is hopelessly behind not only Russia, but also Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and other newly independent states. It may happen that a few years from now Ukraine will be studying the phenomenon of growth of, for instance, Kazakhstan, in whose economy about $17 billion in investment will be attracted this year alone.

Meanwhile, in the opinion of Aleksandr Savchenko, executive director of a department in the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, large Western investors are kept away from Ukraine by inconsistencies in its foreign policy, domestic political crisis, and the lack of political will in conducting economic reforms.

That is why at this point Ukraine is getting either insignificant investment in quick-return projects (airports, terminals, oil pipelines, hotels, etc.), or large investment in which the creditor dictates everything and bureaucrats take their share in commissions. One does not have to look far to find examples. The Ministry of Health has been buying laxatives of the "purgen" type in quantities sufficient to provide relief for the whole of Europe for a year. While the Ministry of Agriculture and Food during L. Kravchuk's visit to Washington bought with seven-year interest-free credit 70,000 tonnes of soy at a price exceeding the average by $40-50 per tonne. One should not look a gift horse in the mouth. Especially considering that if anyone does become constipated, it is bureaucrats on foreign junkets—not ordinary folk who are undernourished most of the time these days.

In short, the birth of the lien law in Ukraine is, on one hand, a joyous event. One the other, it is scary because, judging by the effectiveness of state regulation, we cannot expect fast changes in industry, which means we will have to play a handicapped hand against foreign capital. But this is not all bad, either: One can avoid compliance even with the president of Ukraine's edict, but there is no way to dodge the commonly accepted rules of the market game, which the leadership of our state fears so much.

National Guard Military Council Discusses Duties

WS0704141494 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1100 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] The Ukrainian National Guard [NHU] performs its duties, as established by law, regarding the protection of our constitutional system, the state's territorial integrity, the lives and personal dignity of citizens, and their rights and freedoms against criminal encroachment. This was the topic discussed at today's meeting of the Ukrainian National Guard Military Council, which also addressed ways of improving combat training, education, discipline, and solidarity among units and formations. Guards Major General Mykola Melnyk, the NHU deputy commander, delivered a report. The meeting was chaired by Guards Lieutenant General Volodymyr Kukharuk, the NHU commander in chief.

Nuclear Power Plant Admits Faulty Operation

AU0804085794 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 5 Apr 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "The Zaporizhzhya Atomic Electric Power Plant [AES] Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow"]

[Text] Last year, Zaporizhzhya atomic engineers alone produced 27,567,000 million kilowatt-hours of electric energy. Over the last year, the share of the AES's in Ukraine's power engineering rose from 29 to 33 percent.

However, unfortunately, alongside this, there also are other kinds of increase. Over 1993, at the Zaporizhzhya AES, for example, there were 79 cases of faulty operation of power units.

Among other problems, there is the shortage of funds for purchasing nuclear fuel in Russia. As a consequence, the fuel could only be purchased for three out of five units, at which fuel must be reloaded this year.

Specialists of the Zaporizhzhya AES themselves decided to tackle the problem of storing the used fuel directly in the plant's industrial area. A contract has been concluded between the "Zaporizhzhya AES" Production Association and the U.S. company "Duke Power" on constructing temporary dry-storage depots. Today, this is the safest and the most reliable design.

Belarus

Official Rejects Stationing of 'Alien Strategic Units'

LD0704194694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1715 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] "The Belarusian Government has not announced any official position regarding Russia's desire to set up its military bases in the CIS states," head of the governmental board of national security, Major-General Valeriy Pavlov told INTERFAX.

At the same time, he noted that "alien strategic units cannot be stationed in Belarus, because that would run contrary to Belarus' aspiration to neutrality and nonnuclear status."

In the opinion of Valeriy Pavlov, "the present of Russian aviation bases or air-defense units in Belarus would help Belarussian colleagues to maintain "good condition," to get familiarized with the latest examples of equipment and arms and to resolve social problems."

Valeriy Pavlov noted that "all options of the presence of foreign military bases in Belarus will be thoroughly studied."

Butrus-Ghali Holds News Conference on Visit, Departs

WS0704141694 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1200 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Report by Anatol Awcharenka]

[Excerpts] My visit to Minsk was extremely positive. This is how UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali assessed his meetings, negotiations, and talks [in Belarus], speaking at a conference with journalists at the National Press Center on 7 April. In the course of a three-day visit, seven concrete issues were discussed at different levels with a Foreign Ministry delegation, at the Council of Ministers, and the Supreme Soviet. All of these issues are very important and urgent for Belarus, but the primary one is the problem stemming from the Chernobyl catastrophe. Mr. Butrus-Ghali arrived in our country to see what Chernobyl is, in reality. It is no secret that some countries are displaying weariness and losing interest in Chernobyl's problems. I am sure that the Belarusian side managed to provide the secretary general with convincing data contained in both the national report on Chernobyl and a special memorandum. These documents provide the most recent figures, the most current information. [passage omitted]

In the course of talks, both sides discussed measures to be taken to prevent the world community from reducing its involvement in alleviating the consequences of the Chernobyl accident. However, as was underlined at a news conference held by Belarusian Foreign Minister Pyotr Krawchanka, it will be impossible to fully eliminate the aftermath of the accident in this century.

The Belarusian side can also consider the general secretary's visit a success because it was attended by the director of the Economic Commission for European Affairs. His participation in the negotiations was not coincidental. In my opinion, his arrival in Belarus demonstrated to our government that the United Nations is ready to help Belarus survive its transitional phase and integrate into the world, or at least the European economy. Mr. Butrus-Ghali suggested that our Republic take part in peacekeeping operations in various regions of the world. The general secretary said: We would be very grateful to you if Belarus could provide at least a small contingent of blue helmets. He was told that under current legislation, only the Supreme Soviet can decree Belarusian servicemen's participation in operations outside the Republic. If the situation were to change, we could assist the United Nations in keeping peace around the world.

The UN and Belarusian delegations also discussed the situation of Belarusian ethnic minorities in Latvia and Estonia. Mr. Butrus-Ghali treats this problem very seriously, and that is why the two sides agreed that the Laotian envoy, who is the UN Supreme Commissary, will come to Minsk and receive data on this complex problem, which is persistently plaguing us. The envoy will then visit the Baltic states to contribute to resolving the problem of national minorities, including Belarusians, in Latvia and Estonia. [passage omitted]

UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali has left for Geneva.

U.S. Government Hands Over Humanitarian Aid

LD0704210794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1950 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Report by BELINFORM-TASS correspondent Lidiya Peresypkina]

[Text] Minsk 7 April, TASS—A ceremony of handing over the equipment of the American moth balled military hospital worth over 8 million U.S. dollars to Belarus was held at the 9th Clinical Hospital in Minsk on Thursday.

The Belarusian public learned about this valuable present from the U.S. Government to the republic which had badly suffered from the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station, during U.S. President Bill Clinton's recent visit to Minsk. The President's wife, Hillary Clinton, visited then the 4th Children's Clinical Hospital in the Belarussian capital, met with medical workers and organizers of public health and familiarized herself with the needs of Belarussian medical institutions. That is why the equipment packed in 130 containers, 20 tons each, includes unique surgical furniture and roentgen apparatuses, refrigerators and microscopes, and special beds for patients. Apart from the 9th

clinic, this equipment will be received by the 4th Children's Clinic, well known to the U.S. side, the Research Institute of Radiation Medicine and the Minsk first-aid hospital.

The U.S. Government has been rendering humanitarian aid to Belarus on a regular basis lately which is estimated at over 100 million U.S. dollars.

Still, the handing over of this considerable humanitarian cargo is a very important fact for many reasons. First, medical workers of the Republic received valuable and unique equipment which this country cannot afford to buy. Second, the process of the delivery of this humanitarian cargo became a bridge of friendship between the two armies as from both sides the cargo was dispatched and received by people in a military uniform. In addition, during the transportation of the cargo help was rendered by marines from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and North Ireland.

Some 30 young U.S. servicemen headed by Major-General of the Medical Service Michael Scotty, arrived in Belarus and now together with their Belarusian colleagues are not only receiving the cargo but also training Belarusian medical workers to handle the equipment unfamiliar to them.

During the ceremony of presenting the humanitarian aid General Michael Scotty noted that for the first time during his 30 years of service he was handing over the Army property not for military but for peaceful purposes.

Border Troops To Receive Aid From International Body

WS0704191294 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1715 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] A delegation of the International Immigration Organization, which is on a visit to our Republic, has visited the Border Troops General Department within the Cabinet of Ministers. In the course of negotiations, the two sides discussed the issue of granting technical assistance, as well as help in training Border Troops soldiers. It was agreed that the organization's experts, who are to arrive as early as May, will examine the state of affairs within the Belarusian Border Troops and determine the amount of aid needed.

Hryb Favors Economic Reunification With Russia

LD0704201894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1824 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Report by unidentified BELINFORM correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Minsk 7 April, TASS—Belarusian Parliament Speaker Mechyslaw Hryb called for restoration of full-fledged economic ties with Russia as a way of pulling the former Soviet Republic out of the global crisis, of halting output decline and curbing inflation.

Addressing on Thursday a meeting in Vitebsk with regional law-enforcement officers, the parliament chairman came out in favour of rebuilding a single industrial, energy, market and trade space with Russia, as well as of a single monetary system based on the Russian rouble. Hryb noted that Russia was the main supplier of energy resources and of a great variety of component parts for the Belarusian economy.

When asked whether there was any alternative to a treaty with Russia, the speaker said: "First, we could agree to lift all customs barriers and duties, and then go ahead with further moves, bearing in mind that both economic and political sovereignty of the Belarusian state should be kept intact. This means that the Belarusian budget should by no means merge with that of Russia, nor the Republic's national bank can be absorbed," Hryb stressed.

'Humanitarian Party' Founded; Ministry Reviewing Platform

WS0704193494 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1715 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] The organizational committee of a new party has been established in Belarus—the Belarusian Humanitarian Party. Kanstantsin Syalchonak, known to many of our listeners as an astropsychologist, has been elected chairman of the new party. Although the party has already held its constituent congress, its statute and program are still being examined by the Ministry of Justice. The party founders are convinced that they will contribute to the quick and effective improvement of our lives.

Kebich Launches Presidential Bid With Attacks on Rivals

MK0704113094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 7 Apr 94 p 5

[Report by Valentin Zhdanko from Minsk under the "Belarus" rubric: "Mr. Kebich Wants To Be President. He Thinks That the End Justifies the Means"]

[Text] The number of potential candidates for the Republic's presidency is growing by the day, but the most probable rivals whose names are set to be included on the ballot are three: Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich, [former] speaker Stanislav Shushkevich, and Aleksandr Lukashenko, director of a state-owned farm in Mogilev Oblast, who heads the government anticorruption commission.

The candidates have already engaged in a struggle that sometimes takes on risky forms, with Mr. Kebich setting the tone. On the evening of 5 April, Aleksandr Lukashenko's office at Government House was sealed. This was done on the pretext that the ad hoc anticorruption commission had completed its mission and should be dissolved. At the same time, most commission members have announced that they are quitting it. However, there

has been no Supreme Soviet decision on the subject. Mr. Lukashenko himself has promised to fight to the bitter end and is intent on staying on as commission chairman regardless of who its members will be. The incident of sealing the main corruption fighter's office was immediately described by Aleksandr Lukashenko's supporters as schemes by "a corrupt government."

Mr. Kebich also made a harsh attack against his other dangerous rival, Stanislav Shushkevich. Colonel Zametalin, the prime minister's press secretary, issued a statement calling the former speaker's candidacy "the most controversial and inconsistent one, prone to political flirtation." Mr. Shushkevich was accused by the press secretary of "demoralizing the Supreme Soviet by having turned it from a legislature into a debating society." As an example, he cited the fact that the parliament has been unable to pass the Constitution for two years. Only upon the arrival of a new speaker was the Fundamental Law adopted.

None of the candidates has a clear edge at this stage. The current prime minister's chances may receive a strong boost, however, if the money systems of Belarus and Russia are unified. The government is doing its utmost these days to accelerate the process.

Moldova

Parliament Approves Composition of New Cabinet

AU0704163594 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1803 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 4/4/1994—Moldovan Parliament has approved today the structure and nominal composition of the government proposed by the Premier Andrei Sangheli. The new government will encompass 18 ministers, including the minister of state and minister of relations with the Parliament, instead of the 20 working now. According to Sangheli, the restructuration of the government will lead to the reduction in the state apparatus by 30-40 percent; it has now 5,000-6,000 people for whose maintenance 3.2 percent of the budget means are used. Of four vice-premiers, three were entitled: Valentin Cunev, Ion Gutu, and Valeriu Bulgaru. As ministers were elected: Valeriu Bobutac (minister of economics); Valeriu Chitan (minister of finance); Ceslav Ciobanu (minister of privatization); Grigore Trifoi (minister of industry), Vitalie Gorincioi, (minister of agriculture); Ion Casian (minister of information and telecommunication); Dumitru Nedelcu (minister of social protection); Timofei Mosneaga (minister of health protection); Pavel Gaugas (minister of education); Vasile Sturza (minister of justice); Pavel Creanga (minister of defence); Constantin Antoci (minister of interior); Vasile Calmoi (minister of national security); Mihai Popov (minister of foreign affairs); Vasile Iov (minister of transport and road-works); Mihai Severovan (minister of utilities); Mihail Cibotaru (minister of culture); Gheorghe Gusac (minister of state); Victor Puscas (minister of relations with Parliament). During the debates the Christian-Democratic Popular Front of Moldova Alliance (FPCD) faction proposed to transform the minister of national security in a Department of Border Guards and an Information Service. This proposal was not supported by the parliamentary majority. The deputies decided that the premier will present the program of restructuring the Ministries of Security and Interior. The new composition of the government was passed with 83 votes for, eight against and one abstained. The faction of the Block of Peasants and Intellectuals (BTI) declared that they will not vote.

Premier Confident Government Will Overcome Crisis

LD0704223494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1546 GMT 7 Apr 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: Compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] In an exclusive interview with INTERFAX, Prime Minister Andrey Sangheli stated that the approval of a new government by the parliament not by names, but by the whole list testifies to the trust of the executive power in the new government which is "capable of pulling Moldavia [Moldova] out of the economic crisis."

After expressing satisfaction with the government make-up, the prime minister said that the government was formed by the ruling Agrarian-Democratic Party which will be responsible for the situation in all spheres, including the economy.

According to Sangheli, the Republic has all necessary material and natural resources, the technico-economic potential and adequate personnel for overcoming the crisis."It is just necessary to understand that market is not an ultimate goal, but the way to increase production and improve the well-being of the people," he pointed out.

The prime minister said that by reducing the administrative staff and management structures of the government 30-40 percent saving will be reached.

IF Note: The new government of Moldavia has three ministries and three departments less than the previous one. Now there are 17 and eight of them respectively. Until recently, the total number of administrative personnel was 6,000 people, and their maintenance cost 3.2 percent of the state budget. Sangheli will have four first deputies. There will also be the new post of the state minister for relations with the parliament.

The heads of the power ministries retained their posts: General Pavel Kryange remained the defense minister, Konstantin Antoch—the interior minister, Vasily Kolmoi—the security minister. The present Moldovan ambassador to Belgium Mikhail Popov was appointed as the new foreign minister. The nationalist newspaper

"Tsara" argues that this appointment was made at Moscow's initiative and promises the change of Moldavia's foreign policy from Europe to Moscow oriented.

According to Sangheli, in about 40 days the government will submit to the parliament its program for the near future. The prime minister the priorities will be the following:

—Well-thought combination of state control and development of market structures.

—Intensive denationalization and reform of enterprises through distribution of shares and privatization.

—Agrarian reform with retaining state's influence in the agrarian sector and simultaneous development of peasants' farms.

—Reform of industries, support for efficient industries, the creation of conditions for investments.

—Anti-inflationary policy, the completion of tax reform, the reduction of budget deficit.

"Despite the difficulties and bad shortage of funds, the government will pay special attention to the social support, the creation of state program for the use of labor force, support for low-income people, the preservation of the rights to free education and health care," Sangheli pointed out.

In his opinion, the success of the new government should be guaranteed by professionals who have worked in state bodies before, including in the government, and in recent year were doing business in market and commercial structures. "They should ensure the implementation of the new government's strategy of reasonable combination of market mechanisms and state regulation," the prime minister said.

Sangheli expressed confidence that relations between Moldavia and former Soviet Union republics, now the independent state of the Commonwealth, will rise on a qualitatively new level. He also does not doubt that in the near future the parliament will ratify all agreements signed by President Mircea Snegur within the framework of the CIS and the Economic Union which is now being created. That, in his opinion, would enable Moldavia to cooperate with traditional economic partners on an equal basis.

Commenting on the proposal of the Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev about the creation of Euroasian Union, Sangheli said: "We have not received any concrete proposals. If we do receive them, the parliament and the government will give an adequate answer."

Commenting on the repeated appointment of Sangheli as the prime minister, local observers point out that he enjoys respect of the population of the Left Bank and the south of the Republic, inhabited by Gagauzes, as well as is welcome in the Russian Government.

Snegur Singles Out New Government's Priorities

LD0704210394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1853 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] The new Moldovan Government at its first meeting in Kishinev [Chisinau] on Thursday ruled to recommend to the parliament to ratify the agreement on Moldova's entry the CIS and the Economic Union in the near future.

Speaking at the meeting, Moldovan President Mircea Snegur singled out the main aspects of the Cabinet's activities.

"It is not enough for the government to receive certain powers from the parliament—it should be effective, functional, take decisions in time, offering draft laws and necessary mechanisms and implementing them," the president said.

Snegur noted that the re-organization of ministries and departments should be carried out "quickly and with a considerable reduction of their personnel."

Snegur said that another priority is the preparation of a Cabinet program for the next two-three years. He said that it could be outlined by July 1 and should envisage the acceleration of the restructuring and modernization of the national economy, privatization and social support of the population.

Draft Agreement on Russian Troop Presence Initialled

LD0704195594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1715 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] At the 8th round of talks between Russian and Moldovan government delegations in Kishinev [Chisinau] on April 5-6 a draft agreement on the jurisdiction and mutual legal aid in terms of the temporary presence of Russian military units in MOLDOVA was initialled. The military representatives of the delegations signed the documents on determining the schedule of the withdrawal of Russian troops and cargoes from MOLDOVA to Russia, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Grigory Karasin said at a briefing in Moscow on Thursday.

In his words, "to a large extent, agreement has been reached on Russian aviation forces temporarily stationed on Moldovan territory, and the use of the Tiraspol aerodrome by the Russian Defense Ministry's transport aviation, social guarantees and pensions for retired military servicemen and their families, on the interaction in inspections of Russian military units temporarily stationed in MOLDOVA in accordance with the Treaty on Reduction of Armed Forces in Europe and the Vienna document of 1992."

"The two sides discussed Article 2 regarding the timetable for the withdrawal of Russian military units stationed in Moldova, however failed so far to overcome

the difference on this issue," Karasin said. "The two sides exchange new draft texts of the article and decided to continue its discussion at the next round."

The diplomat particularly noted that like in the previous round the talks were attended by representatives of Moldova's Transdniester region.

1,700 Russian Troops Deployed in Dniester

AU0704204794 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1803 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 4/4/1994—1,700 soldiers of the 27th motorized Division of the Orenburg region serve in the Russian peace keeping forces deployed in Dniester, says today an article by the military commentator Viktor Litovkin in the newspaper IZVESTIA. "16 soldiers had been killed during a year and half. During the same period, the peace keeping forces had confiscated from people who violated the security regime 38 guns, five machine guns, seven grenades, seven carbines, 12 pistols, nine shotguns, 200 grenades and 63,000 cartridges. As to weapons that people on the both banks possess on the basis of special licenses, both Tiraspol and Chisinau officials do not have any data." There are 41 posts in the security zone along the Dniester of which 13 are joint, 10 check points, nine posts near Tighina (Bender), five near Dubasari and four near the village of Chitcani. The 41 Russian offices and 358 soldiers serving at these posts have 400 guns and several tens of armored vehicles. "Colonel General Col. Georgiy Kondratyev, Russian deputy defence minister and responsible for the peace keeping forces, stated that no one intends to retain the Russian peace keeping forces in Dniester for an undetermined period. Moreover, the reduced Russia military budget cannot afford this long presence. But, this does not depend on the general's wish," says the newspaper.

Russian Troop Commander Demands Peace Guarantees

LD0704214794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1619 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy demidetskiy]

[Text] Kishinev [Chisinau] 7 April, TASS—Russian troops can be withdrawn from Moldova's breakaway Dniester region only after appropriate political and international peace guarantees are provided to this region, according to Aleksandr Lebed, commander of the 14th Russian Army deployed in Moldova. Otherwise, "local residents scared by the 1992 war will simply not let the Army out, regarding it as a guarantor of peace and stability in the Dniester region", he noted, commenting on the progress of Russian-Moldovan talks on withdrawal of the 14th Army from the former Soviet Republic.

According to General Lebed, a sort of military and political balance has spontaneously developed in this region of Moldova. If Russian troops are pulled out before the crisis is settled, it may upset the fragile balance and revive the conflict. The commander believes that even after peace guarantees are furnished, "the Army should stay in the region for some time to make sure that political decisions are being properly implemented". However, "no steps have been taken so far to settle the conflict between Kishinev and Tiraspol," Lebed pointed out.

The Russian commander said "the situation in the republic has radically changed following Moldova's parliamentary elections and plebiscite on independence. Dniester authorities were taken unawares by these events and are presently searching for new decisions. I will judge about Tiraspol's position by whom President Igor Smirnov will name to head the negotiating team. If these are the same leaders—Vasiliy Yakovlev or Anna Volkova—there will be no serious dialogue," General Lebed stressed.

The 14th Army commander believes that Russia's peacekeeping role in settling conflicts on CIS borders has good prospects. "Russian officers in the Dniester region managed to iron out the differences, which could have never been smoothed by peacekeepers from third countries. This is just a matter of psychology: People who once served in the same Army know one another quite well. Very often, they drop official attitudes and solve their problems in terms of human relations. This proves extremely helpful," he emphasised.

General Lebed expressed concern over the current ambiguous status of the 14th Russian Army. He said favourable economic conditions should be cretaed for the Army's withdrawal. "We should offer something to people coming to a new place instead of withdrawing them to the open country, as it was in 1988-89," the commander pointed out.

In today's interview with the Kishinev newspaper "MAKLER-TELEGRAF," Lebed denied any involvement into political activities in the Dniester region. He said he had stepped down as a deputy of the Dniester supreme legislature after Dniester militants were sent to Moscow to defend the dissolved Russian Parliament. Speaking of last October's events in Moscow, the commander confirmed that he had been invited to take part but rejected the proposal. Lebed dismissed allegations about his unofficial relations with former Vice- President Aleksandr Rutskoy and said he had no intention "to play his part in Russian politics."

Kazakhstan

President Nazarbayev Wants To 'Step Up' Economic Reforms

LD0604104394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0926 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Kulagin]

[Text] Almaty 6 April, TASS—Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev spoke of the need for streamlining the earlier government anti-crisis programme and perking up economic reform at a meeting on Tuesday with other republican leaders on the eve of his visit to Japan.

Following the introduction of national currency four and a half months ago, the Kazakh leader and the government issued over 200 decrees, decisions and instructions of normative and executive nature. However, the president claims, there is no system and purposefulness in implementing mapped-out measures.

Activities of ministries and the government are not coordinated enough to draft normative and executive documents and to organise their practical implementation.

Nazarbayev made some important proposals aimed at accelerating the compilation of a programme to step up reforms. In the president's opinion, prime attention should be given to raising prestige and improving the operation of executive organs and state bodies of administration.

The president noted that it is necessary to synthesize all channels of financial aid from international organisations and foreign countries received under the state's auspices by areas, economic sectors and social spheres of the republic as well as to hammer out the main principles and mechanisms of its use, including state structures and other institutions responsible for the implementation of projects and the return of credits and loans received for their implementation.

The president also noted the expediency to compile indicative five-year plans starting with 1995, to step up support for privatisation processes and holding structures giving them greater freedom of actions, to promote the development of consumer goods production, to boost volumes of processing agricultural produce and to restructure the operation of the statistical system which orients itself, as before, only on the state sector and, therefore, does not give a real picture of the republican economy.

The president specially stressed that, taking into consideration the present situation and still entertaining hopes for the integration within the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Republic should rely, above all, on its own capabilities. Kazakhstan must survive in any case, using its own potential.

The programme to pep up the economic reform will be adopted in April after its improvement. The president also plans this month to examine issues of privatisation, adjustment of social programmes, housing policy and a drive against crime.

Nazarbayev Backs Japan's Permanent UNSC Membership Bid

LD0704153994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1256 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Report by KAZTAG correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Tokyo 7 April, TASS—Kazakhstan supported the Japanese wish to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council and the two countries pledged to promote their political dialogue on international and regional issues, according to a joint statement signed on Thursday by Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev and Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa.

Japan agreed to grant a 220-million dollar credit to Kazakhstan which pledged to continue market reforms, attract foreign investments and improve economic legislation.

Japan also welcomed that Kazakstan, one of the four former Soviet nuclear republics, had joined the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty as a nuclear-free state. The parties agreed to cooperate in accelerating the solution of issues connected with the elimination of nuclear weapons in Kazakhstan.

Abishev, Japan's Kumagai Discuss Economic Cooperation

LD0704154794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1309 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS-KAZTAG]

[Text] Tokyo 7 April, TASS—The Japanese Government will soon beging insuring businesses conducting foreign economic transactions with Kazakhstan, Japanese Minister of Foreign Trade and Industry Hiroshi Kumagai said.

The announcement was made during Kumagai's meeting with visiting Kazakh Vice-Prime Minister Syzdyk Abishev who is accompanying Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev on his official visit to Japan.

The Japanese-Kazakh project to modernise the metallurgic plant in Karaganda will be the first to be insured by Japan. There are also plans to extend state insurance to a new oil pipeline to be built in Kazakhstan. However, this will become possible only if the Kazakh government provides firm guarantees of credit payments to Japanese companies.

Abishev called on Japan to double investments in the Kazakh economy, adding that the Republic has only three joint ventures with the participation of Japanese capital. Kumagai expressed the hope that Japanese companies will boost investments in Kazakhstan if it creates favourable conditions for foreign investors.

Tokyo, Almaty To Increase Trade Cooperation

LD0704175294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1501 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo 7 April, TASS-KAZTAG—Japan and Kazakhstan are ready to pool efforts to implement Alma-Ata's initiative and convene a conference on interaction and confidence-building in Asia similar to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev and Japan's Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa said during their talks in Tokyo on Thursday.

Their meeting was held in the official residence of the head of the Japanese Government. It covered a wide array of political and economic items. As concerns the situation in Central Asia, Kazakhstan's president noted that Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan have to pursue a tough domestic policy in order to avert the spread of conflicts similar to that in Tajikistan throughout the region. As regards the domestic situation in Kazakhstan, Nazarbayev described it as politically stable.

Nazarbayev called for expanding the scale of economic integration in Asia as a whole and asked Tokyo to come forth with an initiative for the organisation of a common continental market. He stressed his country's readiness to serve as a base for Tokyo's penetration to Central Asian markets.

The president said that he is ready to give Japan preference in realizing major economic projects on the territory of his republic. For this purpose he suggested that Morihiro Hosokawa and himself set up a joint commission to prepare this important move.

The Japanese prime minister assured Alma-Ata of his invariable support for the transformations underway in Kazakhstan and said the projects named by Kazakhstan in the field of economic cooperation require a detailed study by Japan's leadership.

Nazarbayev Calls For Nuclear Test Ban by Aug 1995

LD0804101594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0930 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Report by KAZTAG correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Tokyo 8 April, TASS—President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev called to ban nuclear tests on the planet by August 1995 when the 50th anniversray of nuclear strikes on Hiroshima and Nagasaki is to be marked.

Speaking to reporters he said his people, like the Japanese, had suffered from nuclear weapons.

"If Japan faced an open nuclear attack, the (former) USSR used the weapons against Kazakhstan in peace time by conducting a total of 527 tests" at the Semipalatinsk range, he said, adding that over 100 of them were ground and air explosions.

Nearly half a million of people of Kazakhstan were affected by the blasts, according to Nazarbayev.

Zhukeyev Stresses Intention To Keep Troops in Tajikistan

MK0804073094 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 8 Apr 94 p 1

[Report by Anatoliy Ladin under the "News" rubric: "Kazakhstan's Stance Is Clear"]

[Text] "We are and will be present in Tajikistan legally and as a matter of fact," said Tulegen Zhukeyev, Republic of Kazakhstan deputy prime minister, in a press conference that took place in Alma-Ata [Almaty].

He also said that no decisions to pull out Kazakhstan's military contingent from Tajikistan had been made.

Kyrgyzstan

Government Adopts Program To Cut Emigration

PM0604111194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Apr 94 p 1

[ITAR-TASS report: "Attempts To Halt Emigration in Kirghizia"]

[Text] The Kirghiz Government has formulated a program to reduce the level of emigration.

It contains a package of documents aimed at creating the requisite legislative base for emigration based on international legal norms as well as proposals to create joint ventures and production units, interstate investment funds, and a balanced cadre policy. The package also includes documents examining the full-fledged use of Russian within the system of public education, science, technology, and culture. A considerable part of the program is devoted to tightening up administrative and criminal liability for fueling interethnic enmity. What is more, special measures have been formulated to avert a "brain drain."

Bishkek Awaiting Early Upsurge of Economic Activity

LD0704133394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1048 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Presidential spokesman Imankadyr Rysaliyev in a statement in Bishkek on Thursday has praised the pace of Kyrgystan's [Kyrgyzstan's] economic reforms.

He said the rate of inflation in March ran at 5 percent. Low inflation and stable currency, he said, are setting conditions for economic growth.

The statement says if the policy of economic reforms and financial austerity is maintained "for the next six months at least," good incentives will be created for the inflow of foreign investment and Kyrgyzstan is justified in expecting an upsurge of economic activity soon. Rysaliyev believes "now is the time to think of how to sell what is produced and to avert any possible glut in the domestic market."

Armenia

Russian Expert on 'New Ordeals' Facing Country

NC0704192694 Yerevan SNARK in English 1106 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] [No dateline as received] Russia will face new ordeals in forthcoming months, announced the Russian president adviser and politologist Andranik Migranyan, appearing at a meeting with professorial staff of the Yerevan University. As reports the "HAYASTAN" newspaper today, Migranyan has grounded such a perspective on a fact that Russia experiences now an economic instability, so that important and cardinal decisions are expected in the nearest two months to lead the country out of crisis. He told that emergency measures introduction in economy and industry is being discussed already for some time in the government circles.

Migranyan estimated as nearly 40 percent the democrats' votes in Russian Duma, while there is no yet unity among the rights, he said. The politologist negatively characterized the Nazarbayev's idea of Eurasian Union, calling this initiative a "political bluff".

Speaking of the Karabakh problem, Migranyan expressed an opinion that the consistent policy of Russia will ultimately result in a settlement of conflict. However to reach this objective the involved parties shall not assume delirious ideas as their starting point, but show instead the readiness for compromise.

Minister Sarkisyan Warns Army Deserters

944K1039A Yerevan GOLOS ARMENII in Russian 5 Apr 94 p 1

[Report by NOYAN-TAPAN: "Deserters Should Not Expect a Peaceful Future"]

[Text] The problem of calling up reservists in Armenia for a training session was the topic of a television interview given by Vazgen Sarkisyan, Republic of Armenia minister of state and chairman of the military draft commission. Noting that the previous call-up was "a complete success," he touched on the problem of desertion. According to him, the names of all deserters are known, and if they have not yet been punished it is because these are difficult times and everybody is too busy to look for them. The time will come, however, when they all will face the court. He said that all measures have been taken to keep deserters from leaving the territory of the republic—"for this contingent, the airport is closed." Interpol is involved, and with its help those deserters that have left Armenia may be returned. "There is no forgiveness for them; they do not have a peaceful future—they will not be able to live, work, or study with impunity. Moreover, they will be 'blacklisted.'" Vazgen Sarkisyan promised that chairmen of rayon councils who will not ensure that the call-up process proceeds smoothly will themselves be called up for service.

Dzhilavyan on Arrest Reports, Political Plans

944K1039B Yerevan GOLOS ARMENII in Russian 5 Apr 94 p 1

[GOLOS ARMENII report: "Dzhilavyan Has Not Been Arrested"]

[Text] The editors have received a statement from Moscow issued by the press secretariat of the International Armenian Assembly [IAA], which reads as follows:

"On 30 March ERKIR published a report that IAA President Serzh Dzhilavyan had been arrested.

"Serzh Dzhilavyan has not been arrested. This morning, 31 March, press service staff members talked to Serzh Dzhilavyan, who was at home at the address published by ERKIR—4 Michurinskiy Avenue, where Serzh Dzhilavyan allegedly had been arrested.

"Moreover, on 30 March Serzh Dzhilavyan held a press conference in which he made the following statement: 'As is known, I have handed over to Moscow law enforcement authorities the terrorists who, on assignment from the Republic of Armenia MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs], were supposed to assassinate me last fall. Law enforcement officers of various rank and from different services spent almost the entire night in my home, questioning the suspects and examining their weapons.

"'The suspects were taken away, but the weapons for some reason were left behind, despite my subsequent numerous reminders and insistence that the weapons be removed.

"'Now there is no doubt that the Moscow law enforcement organs' "forgetfulness" was deliberate at the prompting of the Armenian MVD. The weapons were needed in order to organize another provocation against me—to accuse me of illegal possession of weapons. However, this time, again, it did not work.

"'I am not so naive as to not understand the purpose of these provocations. It is the hand of official Yerevan that has reached me in Moscow.

"'Being an entrepreneur and with preferences leaning toward charitable activities, I have tried to stay away from politics. I believe, however, that I can no longer remain passive. I declare that I consider myself from now on in political opposition to the current Armenian authorities and intend to run in the presidential elections in the Republic of Armenia.'"

Azerbaijan

Kazimirov Meets With Nagorno-Karabakh Leaders

NC0704194294 Baku TURAN in English 1638 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Baku (April 6) TURAN—"The aim of my visit to Baku remains unchanged: to work on an agreement proposal concerning the resolution to the conflict", said

Vladimir Kazimirov, special representative to the Russian President on Nagorno-Karabakh, during his arrival to the Azerbaijani capital during an interview with a TURAN correspondent.

According to Kazimirov the peacemaking mission will attempt to clarify positions regarding the Russian peace plan. Kazimirov noted that because of poor weather he could not arrive in Khankendi [Stepanakert] during his past visit. "The short meeting with several leaders of Nagorno-Karabakh was held half way between Yerevan and Stepanakert, somewhere on the border of Azerbaijan", said Kazimirov.

"The peacemaking and mediation missions must be conducted stage by stage, neither side wants its concessions to be announced publicly prematurely, and there has been no concession from the opposite side. That is why we should not hurry," said Kazimirov.

As has been earlier announced, Kazimirov arrived in Baku a week ago accompanied by members of the CIS Interparliamentary delegation in order to introduce the peace plan prepared by Russia and presented to the Azeri and Armenian sides. The major points of the plan provide for a cease-fire, the withdrawal from all occupied territories and a revision of the status of Nagorno-Karabakh.

New Mediation Plan Viewed as Positive

944K1053A Baku MOLODEZH AZERBAYDZHANA in Russian No 5, 7-14 Apr 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Azerbaijan Reacts Positively to New Mediation Initiative"]

[Text] Azerbaijan has reacted positively to a new mediation initiative of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly and the Republic of Belarus in settling the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, and hopes that this will make it possible to stop the bloodshed. The press secretary of the president of the republic, Tofik Abbasov, told this to an AZER-TADZH correspondent. He emphasized that Azerbaijan's position remains constructive and is fully based on commonly accepted norms of international law in keeping with the resolution of the UN Security Council on a cease-fire, the withdrawal of all Armenian armed formations from occupied territories, and the conduct of peace negotiations. The principle of inviolability of borders and territorial integrity of states is a political reality, on which the entire system of modern international relations is built, and no one will be able to ignore this reality through use of violent means.

Aliyev, Others Meet Visiting Iranian Governor

NC0704211994 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev today received a delegation headed by 'Ali Abdol 'Alizadeh, governor-general of East Azerbaijan.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent Akif Tevekguloglu] After achieving independence, Azerbaijan had the opportunity to expand economic, political, and cultural ties with many countries. Relations between Azerbaijan and Iran—which are closely related historically, religiously, and linguistically—have entered a new stage. However, it must be noted that not all the opportunities are being used to develop the brotherly and friendly ties between Azerbaijan and Iran.

In expressing these views during the talks with the guests, Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev also noted that there are no more obstacles before the Azerbaijani people to develop ties with Iran, and the border settlements and cities in both countries should play a major role in this task.

[Aliyev] Azerbaijani lands bordering on Iran should play an important role if the ties between Azerbaijan and Iran are to be improved and expanded. Both the Azerbaijani and Iranian border regions are important. Undoubtedly, Iran's territory is large and it has large provinces in the border regions. Azerbaijan's territory is small compared to Iran and most of it borders with Iran. However, the border regions both on the Azerbaijani and Iranian side are playing a major role in the development of ties between us. That is, they occupy an important place.

In this regard, East Azerbaijan, the general-governor of which is my friend Abdol 'Alizadeh, and hence the city of Tabriz, occupy an important place in this. When I was still in Nakhichevan and you were in Tabriz, we had the same opinion, and in developing and broadening the ties between Nakhichevan and with Iran, particularly through Eastern Azerbaijan and Tabriz, we were pursuing the aim of developing the ties between Iran and Azerbaijan in general.

[Tevekguloglu] Speaking on behalf of his delegation, 'Ali Abdol 'Alizadeh thanked President Geydar Aliyev for the reception. He noted that we deeply feel the profound suffering experienced by Azerbaijan and we believe that you are capable of extracting the people from the existing grave situation. The Iranians are impatiently waiting for your visit. They would be extremely pleased to see you in Tehran and Tabriz.

The guests then proposed that Baku and Tabriz be formally declared sister cities.

Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev gladly accepted this proposal.

Afiaddin Dzhalilov, deputy chairman of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet; State Adviser Vafa Gulizade; and Iranian Ambassador to Iran 'Ali Akbar Nahavandian were present at the meeting. [end recording]

Chairman of the Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet Rasul Guliyev today received the visiting Iranian delegation headed by Governor-General 'Ali Abdol 'Alizadeh.

The chairman of the Supreme Soviet briefed the guests on the Azerbaijani president's position on the socio-political situation in the Republic, on exceedingly serious problems

in our Republic arising from Armenia's aggression, and on the need to establish peace in the region and condemn the aggressor.

Rasul Guliyev noted that the Azerbaijani president is giving great importance to the future development of Azerbaijani-Iranian ties and pointed out the urgency of using all possible means to develop ties between our peoples, who are closely tied to one another with historical, religious, and cultural roots.

He also highly assessed Iran's selfless assistance to the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic, which has been placed under a blockade by Armenia, and the assistance provided to the refugees by the neighboring country.

Mr. Abdol 'Alizadeh expressed his views on Iran's positions on the Armenian aggression and on future development of ties between the two countries.

A number of other problems of mutual interest were also discussed during the meeting.

Iranian Ambassador to Azerbaijan 'Ali Akbar Nahavandian and other officials participated in the meeting.

The delegation of Iran's East Azerbaijan Province was also received today by the Deputy Chairman of the Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet Afiaddin Dzhalilov. Representatives of Azerbaijani ministries, governmental departments, and firms participated in the meeting.

Afiaddin Dzhalilov noted that important documents on further developing the ties between the two countries were signed during Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to Baku some months ago. Such visits have a positive effect on the implementation of the signed agreements.

Mr. Abdol 'Alizadeh, the governor-general of Iran's East Azerbaijan Province, said that he was pleased with the development of the ties between the two countries. He noted that these ties are now entering a new stage and that Iran will take important steps in this direction.

The Iranian border delegation visited the martyrs mausoleum to honor the memory of those martyred for Azerbaijan's independence and territorial integrity.

Aliyev Calls for Expansion of Ties

LD0704230594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] In a meeting with a delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran, Azerbaijan's President Heydar Aliyev called for greater expansion of ties between the two countries.

According to a Central News Unit report from Baku, members of a delegation representing Iran led by Abdolalizadeh, the governor of the East Azarbaijan Province, which has been visiting Baku since Wednesday 6 April, met and conferred with Aliyev on Thursday afternoon [7 April].

In the meeting, the president of Azerbaijan said: We have been cooperating with Iran for a long time and that is indicative of the fact that relations between Iran and Azerbaijan are widening.

Financial Woes Force Iraq To Close Baku Embassy

LD0704171694 Moscow Radio Moscow in Arabic 1300 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry said that financial difficulties have forced the Iraqi Government to close its embassy in the capital of Azerbaijan. [passage omitted]

(Shaykh ol-Eslam Shukrallah Pashazada), the religious leader of the Caucasus' Muslims, has sent a message to Saddam Husayn in which he expressed hope that the closure of the embassy would not prevent Azerbaijan's Muslims from visiting the holy places in Iraqi towns such as Karbala', Najaf, and others.

Ambassador Presents Credentials to UK's Queen

PM0704140194 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 Apr 94 p 7

[Report by correspondent Pavel Bogomolov: "Baku Envoy on the Thames"]

[Text] London, 5 Apr—Makhmud Mamed Guliyev, Azerbaijan ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Britain, has presented his credentials to Queen Elizabeth II. The process of establishing bilateral diplomatic relations has thus officially been completed. Following the embassies of the Russian Federation, Ukraine, and Armenia, the embassy of the Caspian state becomes the latest full-scale diplomatic mission of the CIS countries on the banks of the Thames.

Baku is now linked by a weekly direct flight by the Azerbaijan Airways company with London's Gatwick Airport. This helps to activate bilateral business relations within whose framework mutually advantageous agreements and contacts have recently been signed between Transcaucasus enterprises, associations, and firms, and well known companies like "Kayzer [name as transliterated] Engineers," "Morrison Construction," "British Telecom," "Datacom," and "GPT." Talks are continuing on the forthcoming conclusion of a "deal of the century" aimed at the participation of a consortium of Western oil giants in the development and export of the Caspian's fuel and energy resources.

Aliyev's Decree on Foreign Trade Reported

NC0704204994 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1635 GMT 5 Apr 94

["Text" of a decree issued by President Geydar Aliyev on 5 April—read by announcer]

[Text] Reaching a turning point in improving the Republic's economy through the broad application of market mechanisms and broadening mutually beneficial trade and economic relations with foreign countries and companies are the main directions of the State's economic policy.

Considering the need to deepen economic reforms, increase productivity in foreign trade and economic relations, promote and improve exports, and liberalize the activity of exporting establishments, encouraging them to contribute toward improving the Republic's foreign currency reserves and export potential, I have decided:

1. All legally authorized persons be allowed to export strategically important products. Considering the income from the sale of products abroad and the legal amount to be used from that income to improve the Republic's integrated foreign currency fund, the sale of the minimum volume of strategically important products in return for convertible foreign monetary units in 1994 be established and approved.

2. Regarding the effort to be made to liberalize the export of strategically important products, the volume of domestic need for those products in 1994 be established and approved so that the demand of the establishments and organizations can be met. The producers will be directly responsible for the sale of the established amount of strategically important products in return for convertible foreign monetary units and for the supply of the established amount of products for domestic needs.

3. The financial resources to be created through the sale of strategic or nonstrategic products be transferred to the Republic's integrated foreign currency fund without delay. The sale of the Republic's products in return for convertible foreign monetary units be effected either on the basis of advance payments or in accordance with irrevocable letters of credit so that the financial resources to be created through the sale of the Republic's products can be used to realize the most important social and economic projects and to meet the most urgent needs of the people.

4. The committee responsible for Azerbaijan's customhouse offices be instructed to allow those who will be legally authorized to export Azerbaijan's products to export their commodities in return for convertible foreign monetary units only if they possess documents from pertinent banks confirming that the commodities to be exported have either been paid for in advance or are covered by letters of credit.

5. The state establishments and organizations be instructed to sell their products either by putting out contracts for bidding or through the Republic's stock markets to guarantee the market value of their products.

6. The Azerbaijani Council of Ministers draw up and approve the new norms and levels of the allocations to be made from the funds created through exports and other trade activities to the Republic's integrated foreign currency fund within 10 days, ensure that, as a rule, the state establishments and organizations sell their products either on the basis of contracts that will be put out for bidding or through the Republic's stock markets so that the prices of products can be established in accordance with the demand in the markets, and prepare and approve the rules for the reorganization of foreign trade within seven days. The Council of Ministers draw up and approve a new tariff system for energy consumption to increase the Republic's export potential and seriously reduce fuel and other forms of energy consumption. Considering the increasing rate of inflation, the Council of Ministers rearrange the sale prices of fuel and other forms of energy in the Republic once every three months so that the productivity of the fuel and energy supply complex can be improved. To simplify customhouse procedures, obstruct the violation of laws, and establish discipline in that field, the Council of Ministers approve the listed documents required for exports and imports within seven days. It must be noted that those who are legally authorized to export or import commodities will not be asked to submit any document other than those listed for customhouse procedures.

7. The Azerbaijan National Bank be recommended to draw up and implement the measures that are required to establish the manat's domestic value to allow the money market among the banks to function properly. Regarding the need to stimulate exports, the Azerbaijan National Bank be recommended to give priority to producer establishments, which sell products to foreign countries, when exchanging manats for other currencies, systematically supervise the foreign currency operations by the commercial banks in accordance with the existing laws, and see to it that the allocations to be made from the funds, which are acquired by the authorized exporters and importers, to the Republic's integrated foreign currency fund in accordance with the established norms are transferred on time.

8. A state committee be established to supervise foreign economic relations so that the foreign economic work in the Republic can be organized and the productivity of trade activities can be increased. That committee be empowered to authorize barter agreements for products that are of strategic importance to the Republic. Appointments to the state committee be as follows:

a. First deputy prime minister be chairman.

b. Deputy prime minister and minister of economy.

c. Minister of finance.

d. Minister of foreign economic relations.

e. Chairman of the State Committee for Customhouses.

f. Director of the State Main Inspectorate for Taxes.

g. Chairman of the Azerbaijan National Bank Executive Committee.

h. Chairman of the Azerbaijan International Shares and Commerce Bank [Azerbaijan Sehimdar Komnisya Beynelhak Banki].

The state committee be instructed to study the agreements concluded by individual establishments and organizations for imports and exports and inform Azerbaijan's president and prime minister about the Republic's foreign trade situation at least once a month.

9. The chairman of the state committee be instructed to draw up the rules and regulations of the State Committee for Supervision on Foreign Economic Relations and submit them for the president's approval within two weeks.

10. A provision in paragraph 2 of the decree the president issued on 10 January 1994 to improve Azerbaijan's foreign trade says that the export of strategically important products be subject to the president's approval. That provision be regarded as null and void.

11. The Azerbaijan Council of Ministers adopt decisions for the implementation of this decree.

[Signed] Geydar Aliyev, president of Azerbaijan.

[Dated] Baku, 5 April 1994

Georgia

Ministry Accuses Abkhazia of Resuming Hostilities

LD0704131794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1214 GMT 7 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tengis Pachkoria]

[Text] Tbilisi April 7 TASS—The Georgian Defence Ministry issued a statement today accusing separatist Abkhazia of resuming hostilities in the Kodor Gorge, high in the Caucasus mountains, on Wednesday.

Despite a recent Moscow-brokered truce accord, Abkhazians have delivered an artillery strike on the village of Kvabchara, the press centre of the ministry said adding that the Georgian side abiding by the truce accord did not fire back.

Rebel Tbilisi Police Chief Leaves Quarters 4 Apr

LD0704175794 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1410 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] Tbilisi, 4 Apr—The IBERIA agency reports that at about 1300 hours today Davit Zeikidze voluntarily left the building of the Tbilisi police directorate, while Demur Mikadze, deputy minister of internal affairs of the Republic of Georgia, officially began to perform the duties of acting chief of the police directorate. He has already met police directorate employees.

[In an earlier report, Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian at 1020 GMT on 4 April carried the following: "D. Zeikidze issued an ultimatum demanding that he be given permission to deliver a statement on television, that criminal proceedings against him be suspended, and that the charges of an attempted coup d'etat be withdrawn. The ultimatum has partly been met. Zeikidze's request to see his closest friend, the speaker of parliament, has also been honored."]

UN Observers Shelled by Georgian Artillery

LD0704215194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1359 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] A mission of UN military observers in Abkhazia was shelled on April 6 by artillery of Georgian units stationed in the upper reaches of the Kodor River, a spokesman for the Abkhazian Defense Ministry said Thursday. The mission was shelled when it visited the villages of Lata in the Kodori canyon. No casualties have been reported.

Abkhazian Defense Minister Sultan Sosnaliyev described the incident as the flagrant violation by the Georgian side of the documents for a settlement in Abkhazia signed in Moscow recently.

There are wounded among the servicemen of the Abkhazian army and the civilian population.

Refugees To Return to Abkhazia in 'Two Months'

NC0704190994 Yerevan SNARK in English 1230 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Tbilisi, April 7 (SNARK)—No less than two months will be necessary to organize the return of refugees to Abkhazia, told today in his interview to SNARK the chairman of Georgian Human Rights and International Relations Committee Aleksandr Kavsadze. He told that tomorrow, April 8, the four-lateral committee will sit to discuss the specific aspects of expected peoples' return to their homes. Kavkadze observed that the process will have a step-by-step character.

Meanwhile, told the committee chairman, the principles of peacekeepers' dislocation in the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict zone will be considered on April 12 in Geneva. Georgian side suggests the forces to be disposed on the whole territory of Abkhazia, while the Abkhazian side insists on their presence only along the Inguri River, known to separate the fighters, said Kavsadze.

Parliament Approves Deputy Prime Ministers

AU0804085094 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 31 Mar 94 p 1

[Four decrees issued by the Georgian Parliament approving the appointment of three deputy prime ministers and the minister of finances in Tbilisi on 29 March]

[Text] Decree of the Republic of Georgia on the Approval of Avtandil Margiani as Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Georgia

The Georgian Parliament **decrees:**

To approve **Avtandil Margiani** as deputy prime minister of the Republic of Georgia.

[Signed] **Vakhtang Goguadze, speaker of the Georgian Parliament,**

Tbilisi, **29 March 1994.**

Decree of the Georgian Parliament on the Approval of Tamaz Nadareishvili as Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Georgia

The Georgian Parliament **decrees:**

1. To approve **Tamaz Nadareishvili** as deputy prime minister of the Republic of Georgia.

2. To terminate the powers of Tamaz Nadareishvili as a member of the Georgian Parliament in connection with his approval as deputy prime minister of the Republic of Georgia.

[Signed] **Vakhtang Goguadze, speaker of the Georgian Parliament,**

Tbilisi, **29 March 1994.**

Decree of the Georgian Parliament on the Approval of Teimuraz Basilia as Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Georgia

The Georgian Parliament **decrees:**

1. To approve **Teimuraz Basilia** as deputy prime minister of the Republic of Georgia.

2. To terminate the powers of Teimuraz Basilia as a member of the Georgian Parliament in connection with his approval as deputy prime minister of the Republic of Georgia.

[Signed] **Vakhtang Goguadze, speaker of the Georgian Parliament,**

Tbilisi, **29 March 1994.**

Decree of the Georgian Parliament on the Approval of Davit Iakobidze as Minister of Finances of the Republic of Georgia

The Georgian Parliament **decrees:**

1. To approve **Davit Iakobidze** as minister of finances of the Republic of Georgia.

[Signed] **Vakhtang Goguadze, speaker of the Georgian Parliament,**

Tbilisi, **29 March 1994.**

Cabinet of Ministers Approvals

LD0704205794 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1800 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Summary] At its 7 April session, the Georgian Supreme Council confirmed the following nominees to the Georgian Cabinet of Ministers presented by Eduard Shevardnadze, the Georgian head of state:

Zurab Kervalishvili—a deputy prime minister premier;
Pridon Injia—the minister of communications;
Vladimer Kereselidze—the minister of industry;
Valerian Vashakidze—the minister of refugee and resettlement issues;
Giorgi Kvesitadze—the minister of agriculture and food production;
Tedo Ninidze—the minister of justice;
Avtandil Silagadze—the minister of state property management;
Vazha Gujabidze—the minister of labor and social protection.

Military 'Spheres of Influence' Noted in Abkhazia

AU0804084894 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 31 Mar 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Distribution of Spheres of Influence in Abkhazia!"]

[Text] Sukhumi—According to information supplied by the IBERIA news agency, the spheres of influence between military formations located in the Abkhazian region have been distributed as follows: North Caucasians have mainly been deployed in Sukhumi; Cossacks in Gulripshi; Armenians in Gali; and Abkhazians in Gudauta and Tqvarcheli.

Movement of Unemployed Plans Nationwide Protests

AU0804085194 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 1 Apr 94 p 4

["BS-Press" report under the rubric "According to Reports From Correspondents and Information Agencies": "The Unemployed Are Threatening To Begin Protest Actions"]

[Text] "A wave of protest actions is going to sweep across the country," said Giga Pridonashvili, leader of the Movement for the Unemployed of Georgia, to an agency correspondent. "We will hold rallies and protest demonstrations until the government satisfies our demands: an increase in unemployment benefit and the introduction of a number of amendments to the Law on the Provision of Employment to the Population."

The Movement for the Unemployed is demanding that a point be introduced into the law on the provision of employment stipulating the priority provision of work according to recommendations from the labor exchange.

"For a year now, we have been demanding a meeting with the government and the head of state. We want to be given an account of the measures adopted by the republic's leadership on the protection of the rights of the unemployed," stated Giga Pridonashvili.

New Security Forces To Tackle Local Drug Problem

AU0804081494 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 31 Mar 94 p 4

[GIA report under the rubric "According to Reports From Correspondents and Information Agencies": "In the Struggle Against the Narcotics Business"]

[Text] On 29 March, a meeting of the recently created coordinating headquarters of the law enforcement bodies in the Kartli region was held in Gori. The heads of the region's law enforcement structures participated in its work. On account of the worsening situation concerning the narcotics business, methods of resolving this problem were outlined at the meeting and a plan of action was adopted. In this regard, mixed groups made up of representatives of the Ministry of Security, the military police, and the Ministry of Internal Affairs were created. These forces will control all points of entry into and out of Tskhinvali [administrative center of south Ossetia] in order to prevent narcotic substances from coming into the republic from the northern Caucasus.

Estonia

Government Urges Russia To Adhere to Commitments

LD0704211194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2050 GMT 7 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Maloveryan]

[Text] Tallinn April 7 TASS—Estonian President Lennart Meri, State Assembly Chairman Ulo Nugis and Prime Minister Mart Laar signed on Thursday a statement saying: "At the 18th round of Russian-Estonian talks, which has just finished, the Russian side linked the deadline for complete withdrawal of Russian troops (August 31, 1994) to the conditions that had been already settled during previous rounds, thus casting doubt on the very deadline of troop withdrawal approved by the international community.

Estonia cannot agree to new terms, but is still ready to negotiate with Russia with a view to benevolently surmount all difficulties. However, the Estonian republic regards President Boris Yeltsin's order #174 of April 5, providing for creation of new military bases not only in CIS member-countries but also in the Latvian republic, as Russia's departure from its earlier commitments, as well as from international agreements and principles.

With this in view, the Estonian Foreign Ministry and Estonia's representatives abroad are instructed to do their utmost in persuading foreign leaders to recall Russia that it should unconditionally adhere to its international commitments and to pull out promptly and in the proper order its troops from Latvia and Estonia, which has been repeatedly called for by numerous international documents.

Unfortunately, certain political circles in Moscow are quite likely to use this situation to engineer provocations against Estonia and Latvia. But such attempts are doomed to failure. Estonia will resolutely counteract pressure from Russia. The Estonian people will go ahead with creating new values on its straight way back to Europe".

Malk: Talks End 'Without Any Result'

WS0804101294 Tallinn BNS in English 0712 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] TALLINN, Apr 07, BNS - The 18th round of Estonian-Russian negotiations April 5-6 in Moscow ended without any result, Raul Malk, Estonian Foreign Ministry deputy chancellor and a member of the Estonian delegation for the talks, said today at a press conference in Tallinn.

Malk said only the humanitarian issues working group made some progress. The two parties agreed to resume talks at the beginning of May.

Ago Tiiman, secretary of the Estonian delegation and head of the military issues working group, claimed Estonia was prepared for increased pressure on Russia's part, considering that Latvia and Russia initialed an agreement on social guarantees for military pensioners.

"The course of the talks didn't alarm us, although the Russian party demanded sharply and in the form of an ultimatum that Estonia should sign an agreement on military retirees and pay Russia 23 million U.S. dollars (to build housing for the repatriated military in Russia)," Tiiman said. "Since the texts of the initialed Latvian-Russian agreements are available to us, we can say Russia made similar demands on us."

Tiiman claimed Russia demanded that Estonia should issue residence permits to all retirees and "give them apartments in perpetuity."

Estonia put at the talks the question whether Russia considers that Estonia's legislation concerning military pensioners is inconsistent with international law, which the Russian delegation failed to answer. The Estonian delegation plans at the next round of talks to ask Russia to explain the legal basis for retiring its officers on Estonia's territory.

Russia on Wednesday in Moscow officially backed off from the Aug. 31 deadline for the withdrawal of its troops.

"Russia itself proposed in November the Aug. 31 deadline. Estonia agreed to it after serious deliberation. Now Russia deleted the date from the text of the agreement without making a new proposal. Thus, instead of the final deadline, there's a gap in the text of the agreement. It shows that the work of the delegations' military issues working groups has no prospects. I don't understand what's the purpose of our meetings," Tiiman said.

Tiiman told the press Estonia put forward an "entirely new idea" for dismantling the Paldiski nuclear reactors, which Russia is at present studying. He declined to disclose the details of the proposal.

Tiiman said the humanitarian issues working group made some progress in discussions about the maintenance of military graveyards, exchange of prisoners, and citizenship problems. Russia expressed willingness to present lists of Russian citizens residing in Estonia, he stated.

Malk told the press the April 1 incident near Petseri when two unidentified persons killed one and wounded two Russian border guards cast a cloud on discussions in the border issues working group.

"The parties agreed that absence of a relevant agreement complicates cooperation between the two countries' border guards," Malk said. "They discussed an agreement on cooperation between border officials, and the Estonian delegation asked for an explanation why Russia hasn't as yet ratified the agreement on legal cooperation."

Malk declared that so far no facts have come to light to support the claims that the persons who murdered the

Russian border guard arrived on Russian-controlled territory from Estonia or that they escaped to Estonia after the crime.

The economic issues working group reported no progress. The questions it discussed included an Estonian-Russian agreement on commercial and economic cooperation for 1994, questions of ownership, payment of the former Soviet Union's foreign debt, and compensation for the gold and foreign currency Russia removed from Estonia in 1940.

Malk said Russia links economic issues with developments in other spheres, and for that reason "there was no progress in this group, either."

In reply to BNS' question whether Estonia will after the failure of the 18th round of talks again consider suspending the negotiations, Malk said a relevant political decision must be made on the government level.

Foreign Minister Juri Luik said today at a press conference that Estonian-Russian talks must continue. Europe's support for Russia withdrawing its troops from Estonia by Aug. 31 is very strong, he said.

The foreign minister claimed Russia could pull out its troops even sooner than by Aug. 31. "There are no real obstacles to it, it's only Russia's political incapacity," Luik maintained. He added that the western states would react pretty sharply if Russia should drag its feet over the troop withdrawal.

Luik Talks To Continue

WS0804082694 Tallinn ETA in English 1823 GMT 7 Apr 94

["News Release"]

[Text] Estonian Minister of Foreign Affairs Juri Luik, who returned from a visit to Brussels on Thursday [7 April], told a press conference that despite the failure of the last, 18th round of the Estonian-Russian inter-state negotiations in Moscow yesterday, Estonia intended to continue the negotiations.

On Wednesday, Russia removed the clause in the draft Russian- Estonian troop withdrawal agreement obligating Russia to pull its troops out of Estonia by 31 August 1994, saying the final date would reappear in the draft agreement if Estonia altered its legislation on military retirees, Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed ETA yesterday. In essence this move set talks back to last August, before Russia had proposed a final withdrawal date, the Ministry said in its statement.

"There is always sense in continuing the negotiations," Luik said, recalling that already after the 17th round the negotiations were almost broken, but stressing that the negotiations had to be continued with the aim of 31 August as the Russian troop withdrawal deadline.

He added that in case of a wish from the Russian side Russia could pull out its 2,500 troops from Estonia much quicker than August 31. "There are no practical obstacles to troop withdrawal, there is only a political inability from the Russian side," he said.

Ago Tiiman, the secretary of the Estonian delegation at the negotiations explained a press conference on Thursday that the Russian delegation had made a proposal to grant residence permits automatically to all retired Russian military, including "the officers that will resign e.g. tomorrow". He said that the Russian side demanded that Estonia give the flats used by the retirees to their private ownership, saying that a privately owned flat could be sold much more favourably by those that leave than only the so-called "propiska".

Tiiman said that the Russian delegation made its proposals in "a sharp ultimatum style". As the demands were similar to those adopted in the Russian-Latvian agreement, the text of which Estonian delegation had at hand, Estonia was prepared to the pressure of the Russian side, he added.

Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed ETA on Thursday that 30 House members of the US Congress sent letters on April 4 to President Clinton and Secretary of State Warren Christopher urging the Administration to insist that Russia honor its commitment to withdraw from Estonia and Latvia by August 31, 1994.

"If we abandon our insistence that Russia remove its troops from the Baltics on schedule, we will only strengthen the hard-liners in Russia who wish to expand their influence and regain lost territory. The removal of all Russian troops from the independent yet fragile Baltic countries is crucial for stability, peace and democracy in the Baltics, and for continuing good relations between the United States and Russia," reads the letter.

Russian allegations of human rights violations in Estonia and Latvia, a claim Moscow uses to justify Russian military presence, were rejected in this letter. Signatories also agreed that Russian demands for housing, pensions and resident status for former Russian officers are "completely unjustified, and are simply intended to prolong the Russian occupation of the Baltics."

Estonian Minister of Population Peeter Olesk told ETA, however, that it was to be expected that Russia will "increase pressure on Estonia at the final phase of the bilateral negotiations" and "dispute Estonia's belonging to European states". "Russia has always been interested in destabilizing our independence and will not step back on the issue," he said.

Russian Delegation Head Comments

WS0804102394 Tallinn ETA in English 0728 GMT 8 Apr 94

[From 8 April HOMMIKULEHT, p 3; "News Bulletin" No. 67]

[Text] The future of the Estonian-Russian negotiations is vague, head of the Russian delegation Vasily Svirin told the ETA yesterday. The 18th round made progress only

in some issues concerning citizenship, while the problem of the retired military remained unsolved, he said. The Estonian side had rejected all Russian proposals, Svirin explained. He added that the Russian side proposes a complex solution of the Paldiski issue, while the Estonian proposals had only concerned the removal of the nuclear fuel. The Russian side is ready to initial the agreement on Paldiski, Svirin announced.

Luik on EU Relations, Russian Troop Withdrawal

BR0704154294 Brussels L'ECHO in French 7 Apr 94 p 4

[Report on interview with Estonian Foreign Minister Juri Luik by Francoise Delstanche in Brussels; date not given: "Estonia Expects Firmer Support From The Twelve"]

[Text] An ambiguous European attitude is prompting the countries of Eastern Europe to come banging on its door. Still wary of Russia, Estonia is seeking support from the European Union (EU) and wants to set up a free trade zone as from January 1995.

In the wake of the accelerated process of rapprochement between the West and the countries that used to be on the other side of the Iron Curtain, the Baltic states do not intend to let themselves be held to one side. Like other countries in Eastern Europe, they are implementing their policy of rapprochement with the EU, and the defense and security organizations—NATO and the WEU [Western European Union]—in parallel.

For instance, Estonia, whose foreign minister, Mr. Juri Luik, was in Brussels this week, has signed up to the Partnership for Peace with NATO, and does not intend to let itself be outstripped if the WEU actually goes ahead with the creation of an associate status for the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. What is more, Juri Luik proved optimistic in this respect, remarking during an interview with L'ECHO that the WEU Secretary General Willem Van Eekelen said he was clearly in favor of the Baltic states participating in such a project.

Free Trade

Furthermore, the three Baltic states launched negotiations with the Twelve last February with a view to creating a free-trade zone. This has become essential in the light of the possible entry of the Scandinavian countries to the Union—for these countries already have such an agreement with the Baltic states. Hence the need to conclude an agreement this summer, so that it can be implemented as from 1 January 1995.

Have any problems arisen in the context of these discussions? Not really, affirmed Juri Luik. Things are making quite good progress, he believes, even if his country would like more extensive free trade—at least, more extensive free trade than the EU is offering at the moment. Estonia, he reiterated, is one of the champions of free trade. "That," he explained, "is why we do not want to see the others erecting any more barriers between us." Compared with the European agreements already in force, Priit Kolbre, deputy secretary general for foreign affairs in Estonia and his country's main negotiator with the EU, emphasized that the EU's current preference for countries with EU associate status will be reversed to Estonia's benefit because its economy is completely open. However, certain sectors that are sensitive from the EU's point of view—e.g. the agriculture and textile sectors—are still posing problems.

Nonetheless, in the eyes of Minister Luik, it is not only an economic gesture, but also a political decision aimed at showing that free trade is still worth something, even today. "We have come a long way," he said, "and we are expecting stronger political support from the EU than we are being given at the moment."

However, the three Baltic states have already set their sights even higher and soon want to launch talks on becoming EU associates, just like the other countries of Central Europe. These negotiations could be finished by the end of the year, believes Juri Luik, for the economic part will already have been completed within the context of setting up the free trade zone. So all that would remain would be the political and philosophical part, which he does not believe should create any major problems.

Artificial Barriers

As for full EU membership, it is still too early to say for Estonia. "For the moment we are concentrating on association," affirmed Priit Kolbre, who believes that the EU has erected artificial barriers by subdividing the countries of Eastern Europe into small subgroups, with the Visegrad countries on one side, the Baltic states on the other, etc. "Consequently, our main objective is to eliminate these barriers and ensure that we are given equal treatment," he said, by becoming associates, just like everyone else. Only then will the time come to discuss membership, a prospect for which Estonia will be ready in five years' time, according to Kolbre.

Moreover, it is the behavior of the EU member states which is provoking the current climate of competition between the new candidate member states in the East, continued the Estonian minister. For it would appear that the Union has not managed its policy on enlargement with sufficient clarity, Kolbre believes. In this context, he went on, the potential candidates are wondering about the risk they are running of seeing the EU end its enlargement process for the time being. It is precisely this uncertainty that is prompting them to rush so that they can be included in the next wave of negotiations.

Unpredictable Russia

Juri Luik believes that beyond the pure process of bilateral rapprochement, the EU also has a very important role to play regarding the relations between the Baltic states and Russia. This particularly applies in the context of Russia's commitment to withdraw its troops from Estonia by the end of August 1994. A promise

which could effectively be respected if European pressure is kept up, for it should not be forgotten that the actual means of withdrawal have not yet been settled.

In Tallinn, the Estonian Government is wary of Moscow's changes of mood. The Foreign Ministry is underlining the ambivalence of the Russian position, which is constantly imposing new conditions on the withdrawal of its troops. However, that is not the only example. The Russians would still like to be given special treatment, laments Priit Kolbre, whether in relations with the IMF, NATO, or the Council of Europe. It is precisely for that reason that the West should set clear limits that are not to be crossed, insists the Estonian politician. For, in his view, Moscow is currently performing a neat U-turn toward centralism, chauvinism, and withdrawal into itself. The last instance of this to date comprised the modifications imposed on the Russian customs system, which penalize the Baltic states in particular.

Luik Optimistic After EU Talks

WS0704162794 Tallinn BNS in English 1030 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Brussels, Apr 07, BNS—Estonia is optimistic it will soon have free trade access to the European Union [EU], Foreign Minister Juri Luik said Wednesday [6 April].

In Brussels for meetings with EU officials, including the union's trade chief, Sir Leon Brittan, Luik said he hoped talks on a free trade agreement between the two sides would be sewn up in late May.

The talks have narrowed their focus down to the sensitive areas of agriculture and textiles, he told reporters.

Estonia's policy of allowing imports to enter the country freely, without tariffs, gives the tiny nation "a very strong hand in negotiating with the European Union," Luik said.

EU trade talks with the Baltic nations of Latvia and Lithuania are progressing more slowly, "but the aim to have working agreements in place by Jan. 1, 1995 is still a goal for all three states," Luik said.

Estonia already has a free trade zone with Finland, which is expected to join the union on Jan. 1, along with Austria, Norway and Sweden.

Luik said Baltic states hope to upgrade their talks with the EU soon so they can move beyond trade to political and immigration issues. "We hope in autumn that the Baltic states might move on to the association agreements," he said.

Those agreements ensure regular political dialogue and hold out the prospect of eventual EU membership.

The EU has signed similar accords with the Czech and Slovak Republics, Hungary, Bulgaria and Romania.

Luik said Baltic governments feel strong support from EU states, especially from Germany.

"This path needs political courage, both from ourselves and from the European Union," he said.

He would not guess as to when Baltic states would find their place in the union. "It depends more on the EU than on us," he said. "We are ready to move at the quickest possible speed."

"We don't want the Baltic states to be left behind." Last month, the presidents of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia announced they would combine diplomatic efforts to gain membership into European and international organizations.

Since breaking with Moscow in 1991, the three states, with a combined population of 7.8 million, have expressed the desire to integrate their nations.

Luik said coordination so far has been "mostly political," adding that there are "clear differences" between their economic policies.

Further Comments

WS0804083194 Tallinn ETA in English 1823 GMT 7 Apr 94

["News Release"]

[Text] Estonian Foreign Minister Juri Luik, who returned from an official visit to Brussels, on Thursday [7 April], told a press conference at the Tallinn Airport, that the main issue of his press conference, yesterday, in Brussels, was that of free trade negotiations between Estonia and the European Union.

During his two-day visit Luik had meetings with West-European Union Secretary General Willem van Eekelen, deputy Secretary General of NATO Sergio Balanzino and deputy President of the European Commission Sir Leon Brittan and he made a speech in the European Parliament foreign and security issues committee, Estonian Embassy in Brussels told ETA.

The relations of the Baltic states with the European Union were discussed in the light of current free trade negotiations and in connection with the possibility to continue these negotiations with the aim of concluding an association agreement with EU. Luik stated that taken into consideration the Estonian already very free foreign trade policy EU could express more benignancy, especially in the areas of trade, agriculture and textile. He stated, however, that Estonia will not unilaterally avoid limitations on textile and agriculture trade, if EU makes no concessions to Estonia. Luik stressed that the association agreement negotiations should start directly after the free trade agreement was concerted, which could happen as soon as the second half of this year. "If we can conclude the free trade agreements by January 1, 1995, Estonia will in reality pass the Visegrad states and be the first East European state to belong to the joint free trade zone with EU," Luik said today.

At the meetings in NATO and the West-European Union, security issues were discussed in connection with preparations to grant Central and East-European states a

new status in the WEU. Luik expressed hope that in case of the new status, no differences should be made among the states that participate at the WEU consultation forum, a member of which Estonia is, together with 6 Central- European states, Latvia and Lithuania. The details of the new status have to be approved by WEU and consultation partners foreign and defence ministers meeting on May 9 in Luxembourg.

Lithuanian Delegation Received by Meri, Others

WS0804102294 Tallinn ETA in English 0728 GMT 8 Apr 94

[From 8 April EESTI SENUMID p 3; "News Bulletin" No. 67]

[Text] Chairman of the [Lithuanian] Seimas [parliament] Ceslovas Jurgenas is on an official visit to Estonia. The Speaker of the Seimas met President Lennart Meri, Riigikogu Speaker Ulo Nugis, Riigikogu vice-chairmen Edgar Savisaar and Tunne Kelam and Prime Minister Mart Laar yesterday. Speaker Jurgenas and President Meri denounced the Russian delegation statement rejecting the August 31 deadline. They discussed the Baltic cooperation in politics and legislation.

Ulo Nugis and Ceslovas Jurgenas discussed mainly the Baltic-Russian relations. Nugis expressed his opinion that Russia has made a sharp turn in its foreign policy. Their meeting also concerned the Latvian-Russian agreement.

The Lithuanian delegation is to visit the National Library and the Diplomatic School today.

Russian Military Exercise Causes 'Alarm'

WS0804101994 Tallinn ETA in English 0728 GMT 8 Apr 94

[From 8 April PAEVALEHT, p 3; "News Bulletin" No. 67]

[Text] The Russian military held an exercise at the shooting range in Manniku, causing some alarm among the public. The Defence Forces GHQ and the police had not been informed of the training. Defence Ministry press secretary Maige Priim explained that the explosions had been caused by hand grenades, adding that the Russians had not asked for the permission of the Estonian authorities to hold the exercise.

Investigation Team Formed; 58 Kurds Arrested

WS0704163894 Tallinn ETA in English 0800 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] The police arrested 58 Kurdish illegal immigrants in a house in Tallinn yesterday. The Kurds claim to have been smuggled over the border in sealed containers. A joint police, defence police and border guard investigation team was formed, headed by border guard director Tarmo Keuts.

Border Officials Discuss Problem

WS0804101594 Tallinn BNS in English 0712 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] TALLINN, Apr 07, BNS - The 58 Kurds who recently arrived illegally in Estonia were taken into the country through Narva, not through southeastern Estonia, Border Guard Department Director Tarmo Kouts told BNS.

Kouts, whom Interior Minister Heiki Arike appointed as head of a working group to investigate the incident, held yesterday and today talks with Russian border guard officials.

"The talks haven't so far brought a definite result," Kouts said. "The Russian officials claimed they hadn't as yet been authorized to let the Kurds back into Russia, but they didn't deny that they ought to receive them."

Kouts confirmed that the chief of Russia's Pskov border guard unit wanted to solve the Kurdish issue on the level of the two countries' border guard authorities, without involving the foreign ministries.

The leader of the Estonian border guards told BNS there was no information to confirm allegations that some Estonian officials were paid for allowing the Kurds into the country.

"The Kurds give contradictory statements and are afraid to speak, because they were smuggled into Estonia by the Russian mafia and people's lives may be at stake," Kouts explained.

He said it is not yet clear what transport the Kurds used.

The Interior Ministry told BNS the Kurds claimed to have arrived in Estonia Tuesday [5 April] night from Moscow in two groups in closed containers. They also said they paid go-betweens for being taken into the country.

The Kurds were detained on Wednesday in an apartment house in Tallinn's Kopli district. The group comprised 21 men, 16 women and 21 children.

Russian-Speakers Warn of 'Social Explosion'

WS0704162694 Tallinn BNS in English 1030 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Tallinn, Apr 07, BNS—Two organizations of Estonia's Russian-speaking population warned the government yesterday of a "social explosion" if the effective regulations for issuing residence and work permits to non-citizens are not changed.

The Russian Representative Assembly and the Russian Community are of the opinion that the application of the aliens law, which met with an otherwise "positive response," by the executive branch of power is a "juridical trap" which deprives most of the non-citizens of a number of their rights.

The statement notes that at present only temporary residence and work permits for a one-year term are

issued to persons who lived in Estonia before July 1990. The permits don't grant them social and economic rights promised upon adoption of the aliens law, the statement claims.

In the opinion of the Russian organizations, the problem can be solved only legislatively. The Russian Representative Assembly and the Russian Community have made their proposals for this to the government through the minorities' round-table conference.

The proposals include defining legally the status of persons who were born on the Estonian territory or arrived in the country before July 1, 1990, and were registered as Estonian residents by the authorities of the Estonian SSR; introducing a guarantee in the aliens law that permanent residents of Estonia will be issued permanent residence permits; and defining the exact meaning of "permanent residence and work permit," "temporary residence and work permit," "cadre personnel of foreign armed forces," and "sufficient legal income" in the aliens law.

Both Russian organizations announce that, until such decisions have been passed, they cannot advise non-citizens to apply for residence and work permits.

Guild Opposes Government Issuing RAHVA HAAL

WS0704163694 Tallinn ETA in English 0800 GMT 7 Apr 94

[From 7 April PAEVALEHT, EESTI SENUMID p 3, 1; "News Bulletin" No. 66]

[Text] Thursday, April 7—The general assembly of the Association of Estonian Newspapers (EALL) convened yesterday for an extra meeting concerning the conflict around the daily RAHVA HAAL. The assembly approved a statement recommending that the government terminated the publication of the daily in its present form as "harmful to the reputation of the Estonian printed media". The assembly also offered to mediate between the parties of the conflict.

The assembly considered it unsuitable for the Ministry of Culture chancellor Veiko Jurisson to continue at a responsible government post because of the harm done to Estonia's international reputation and the financial loss caused to the state by his actions.

Managing Director of the EALL Mati Eliste pointed out that the daily RAHVA HAAL, currently published by the private company Hommikuleht, is not being returned to the printing shop for lack of buyers and presents a criminal waste of paper and labour. The EALL had warned the Estonian Government against inevitable conflicts that would follow the attempts to privatise the newspaper against the will of the editorial staff, the statement read. However, the government had failed to consider the warning and the conflict came about as predicted.

The EALL also stated that the former editorial staff of the RAHVA HAAL should have made more efforts to regulate its relations with the state.

Chancellor of the Ministry of Culture Veiko Jurisson claimed that the negotiations concerning the new editor in chief of the RAHVA HAAL are likely to be concluded today. But he declined from disclosing the candidates' names.

ETA Chief To Act as Editor-in-Chief

WS0804082894 Tallinn ETA in English 1823 GMT 7 Apr 94

["News Release"]

[Text] Chairman of the board of the scandalous Rahva Haal newspaper Veiko Jurisson told ETA that starting Friday [8 April], the present editor-in-chief of Estonian News Agency Peeter Tali will fulfill the responsibilities of the acting editor-in-chief of the paper.

Tali will continue working at ETA as a consultant. As an acting editor-in-chief of Rahva Haal he has all authorities to put together the new staff of Rahva Haal, Jurisson said.

Peeter Tali (29) has graduated from Tartu University department of journalism and has worked for the Edasi£ostimees daily and as an editor-in-chief of ETA since last summer.

Scandal over the second biggest Estonian daily Rahva Haal started already in May last year when Estonian Privatization Agency decided to privatize the state-owned newspaper, the results of which were disputed at court and the privatization of the daily stopped.

In October last year the board of the daily was changed with majority given to representatives of the government coalition. On March 18, the board adopted a decision to change the statutes of the company, abolishing the institution of editor-in-chief and creating a new institution of publisher-in-chief. Majority of the staff of the paper, in protest to the decision, resigned and decided to join AS RH, formed by the Rahva Haal staff last year to participate at the privatization. Editor-in-chief Toomas Leito was dismissed by the board "for loss of trust" and not preserving "political balance" of the paper. Toomas Leito told ETA that the decisions of the board of RAS Rahva Haal had been of "purely political" nature.

The former staff of Rahva Haal started to publish their own paper Eesti Sunumid. Rahva Haal is published, at present, by RAS Rahva Haal in cooperation with AS Hommikuleht, another Estonian daily.

On Monday, Estonian Ministry of Culture and Education sent a letter to the managing director of AS Ajakirjandusmaja, that administers the Tallinn Press Building where most of the biggest newspapers are located, demanding that in 24 hours "outsiders" (meaning the former staff) leave the 5th floor rooms rented to RAS Rahva Haal. Phones were cut off and the staff let into the rooms only in twos to fetch their private things.

World Press Freedom Committee, which includes 36 leading journalistic organisations on five continents, sent a letter to Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar on Thursday, saying that the Committee was dismayed over Estonian government's "forcible eviction" from their premises of the editor and staff of the newspaper Rahva Haal.

"This attack on the journalistic independence of a newspaper critical of your administration can only harm the hard won image of the new Estonia as a working democracy," Ronald Koven, the European representative of the Committee, stated on behalf of the organization, adding that it is particularly distressing to those who have seen Estonia as a "leading exponent of free speech and press freedom in East and Central Europe".

The notion of "political balance" invoked to attempt to justify governmental dismissal of the editor, cutting off the newspaper's telephone lines and threats to prosecute the editor, all violate the principles of press freedom, the letter stresses.

The committee urges Estonian Prime Minister to refrain from placing further obstacles in the way of the staff's publication of their newspaper (i.e. Eesti Sunumid) and to proceed with speedy privatization of the paper without attempting to maintain control indirectly. "The steps taken so far plainly demonstrate the threat to a free press of state ownership," the letter says, adding that Estonia's democratic credentials are threatened by these actions against the press.

Latvia

Birkavs: Yeltsin 'Order' Prevents Agreement

LD0704125894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1048 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Latvian Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs declared that Russian President Boris Yeltsin's order on creation of military bases on the territory of CIS states and Latvia makes conclusion of the Russian-Latvian agreement on troop withdrawal impossible. Birkavs declared this at a briefing staged after a special sitting of the Latvian Cabinet of Ministers on Wednesday in Riga which considered this order issued by Yeltsin.

As it was reported earlier a package of interstate agreements determining the date for troop withdrawal from Latvia, namely August 31, 1994 and several additional provisions, including the one concerning Russia holding on to the early-warning radar in Skrunda for 5.5 years, is being prepared now to be signed by Latvian and Russian presidents. At the briefing, Birkavs pointed out that the initialled agreements do not stipulate that this site would have the status of a military base.

The official statement of the Latvian Cabinet says that "the Latvian government has never agreed and will never agree to create Russian military bases on Latvian territory and to test new armaments and military equipment on its territory, it also rules out the possibility of any negotiations on these issues."

Birkavs added that the order of the Russian president appeared "under the influence of Russia's conservative circles whose goals coincide with the interests of Latvia's national radical circles —to prevent conclusion of the Russian-Latvian treaty."

Ulmanis Derides Decree

WS0704151494 Riga LETA in English 1423 GMT 7 Apr 94

["Statement by the President of the Republic of Latvia Guntis Ulmanis"]

[Text] On April 6 of this year, I received an ITAR-TASS report that Russian President Boris Yeltsin has agreed to a Russian Ministry of Defence proposal to establish Russian military bases on Latvian territory. The report states that the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, together with the Russian Ministry of Defence and other ministries, is to begin negotiations on this issue and to draft the appropriate agreements.

The obviously contradicts the agreements initialed by the government delegations of both states, and raised doubts about the true intentions of the Russian Government delegation in the process of drafting the agreements. This statement caused justified concern for the planned meeting between the presidents of Latvian and Russia and the development of potential political dialogue. It does not assure domestic and foreign political stability, and diminishes trust in Russia as a partner state in agreements. The building of Russian military bases on Latvian territory would be a real threat to Latvian sovereignty and security and would destabilize not only the Baltic region, but also Western Europe.

Over the last few hours, I have repeatedly attempted to contact the commander-in-chief of the Russian North-West Military Group General Mayorov and President Yeltsin's administration in order to obtain an explanation. As yet, I have not received an answer, which points to deliberate evasion from providing an explanation.

Latvia will never allow the building of a Russian military base on its territory.

[Signed] Guntis Ulmanis, president of the Republic of Latvia.

Cabinet Issues Statement

WS0704153994 Riga LETA in English 1423 GMT 7 Apr 94

["Unofficial translation" of statement issued by the Latvian Cabinet of Ministers in Jurmala on 6 April]

[Text] On April 6, 1994 of this year, the Government of the Republic of Latvia received at its disposal decree No. 174 signed by Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin on April 5, in which the Russian Federation

President has consented to the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence proposal, approved by the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs, concerning the establishment of military bases in the territories of the CIS and the Republic of Latvia, in order to ensure the security of the Russian Federation and the previously mentioned nations, as well as to test new armaments and military equipment. The Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs, together with the Ministry of Defence and other interested Russian Federation ministries and departments, has been charged with negotiating with the CIS and the Republic of Latvia, and to conclude the reached agreements by means of the appropriate documentation.

In this connection, the Government of the Republic of Latvia states that the substance of the decree by the Russian Federation president is in stark contrast with the draft agreement on Russian troop withdrawal from the Republic of Latvia prepared by the delegations of the Republic of Latvia and the Russian Federation, and initialed in Moscow on March 15, 1994. It can be regarded as an unwillingness by the Russian Federation to sign these jointly prepared and initialed draft agreements, and subordinate covenants.

The Government of the Republic of Latvia categorically states that it has not agreed to, does not agree to, and will never agree to the establishment of Russian Federation military bases, or to the testing of new armaments and military equipment in the territory of the Republic of Latvia, and rejects the possibility of any discussion on these issues. The Russian Federation does not have the right to wailfully undertake to guarantee the security of the Republic of Latvia.

The decree by the Russian president fundamentally changes the international political and military situation in Eastern Europe. The Government of Latvia regards this decree as open submission to pressures from Russia's reactionary imperialistic circles.

That Russia wants to establish its military bases in Latvia proves that the goals of specifically these forces were not met in the March 15 initialed agreements. They are now attempting to make these agreements inconceivable.

The fact that these intentions have gained support in the Russian Federation president's decree, is a heavy blow to the international community's and the Republic of Latvia's ability to trust in the course of Russia's foreign policy and the foreign policy's compliance to internationally accepted norms.

The Government of Latvia is evaluating its further policy in relation to Russia and will take commensurate countermeasures to any attempts to threaten Latvia's sovereignty.

The Government of the Republic of Latvia requests explanations from the Russian Federation regarding this decree and reserves the right to inform the governments of countries around the world and international institutions about the changes of Russia's position on the issue of Russia's troop withdrawal.

The Government of Latvia once again requests that the Russian Government without delay and unquestioningly withdraw all army and military personnel who are located illegally in the territory of the Republic of Latvia.

Russia Seen 'Reluctant To Sign'

PM0704154494 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Apr 94 p 3

[Report by Irina Litvinova under the general heading: "Russia Does Not Intend To Create Military Bases in Latvia. Diplomats Believe Boris Yeltsin Was Given the Wrong Document To Sign"]

[Text] Aleksandr Rannikh, Russian ambassador to Latvia, was summoned to the Baltic state's Foreign Ministry, where he was handed a protest concerning military bases on the territory of CIS countries and Latvia mentioned in an edict of the Russian president.

The Latvian Government, after an emergency discussion of the Russian document, stated that the Russian president's directive is "in sharp conflict with the draft agreements on the withdrawal of the army from Latvian territory initialed by the two countries' delegations in Moscow 15 March this year." The Latvian Cabinet of Ministers suggested that the mention of a Russian military base in Latvia, which was not agreed with Riga, could be seen as indicating that Russia is reluctant to sign the agreed documents. The Latvian Government stated that it "did not agree, does not agree, and will never agree to the creation of a Russian Federation military base or to the testing of new Russian arms and equipment on the territory of the Latvian Republic, and rejects the possibility of talks on these questions."

As is known, the only military facility for which an exception was made at the Russian-Latvian talks is the radar tracking station in the settlement of Skrunde. Latvia made a concession and granted permission for it to remain for several years after the withdrawal of the army, until a similar facility can be built in Russia. But in the agreement the Skrunde station was not referred to as a military base.

The Latvian delegation repeatedly came out against that.

The Latvian national radicals are doing everything possible to retard the signing of the treaty with Russia, including the agreement on Skrunde. The mention of a Russian "military base" in Latvia in the presidential document prompted a nervous and aggrieved reaction in Latvia's top echelon. Riga demanded explanations in connection with the Russian president's directive.

Faction Leader Wants Yeltsin Denial

WS0704181294 Tallinn BNS in English 1648 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Riga, Apr 07, BNS—The decision of President Boris Yeltsin to set up military bases in Latvia would change the political situation, said Indulis Berzins, of the Latvia's Way faction.

The motion would also and endanger the implementation of U.N. General Assembly's resolution on the complete and immediate withdrawal of Russian troops from the Baltic states, he said.

Certain ruling political forces in Russia dislike the anticipated agreement with Latvia because they hope to make an advantage of the present situation when there is no formal agreement to keep Russian troops in Latvia, Berzins said.

Latvia, however, should not sign the initialed agreements on troop withdrawal before additional talks between authorized state delegations, Berzins added.

Berzins claims that the information about "the technical mistake" in the text of Yeltsin's resolution "does not and will not enhance confidence" unless the Russian president himself issues an official statement.

Others Comment

WS0704181494 Tallinn BNS in English 1648 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Riga, Apr 07, BNS—President Boris Yeltsin's April 5 decision clearly reflects the aggressive intentions of Russia's foreign policy to keep Latvia in its sphere of influence, the Latvian Saeima (parliament) Homeland and Freedom faction said.

The reference by Ambassador Aleksandr Rannikh to a technical mistake is curious from the point of view of international relations and only indicates of various understanding of political tactics by various Russian leaders, said faction head Maris Grinblats. It's not enough to consider that Russia has given up its aggressive plans.

Grinblats characterized the anticipated signature of the agreement on the Skrunda radar functioning and the status of military retirees in Latvia as a "political suicide."

Official: Announcement No Surprise

WS0704181694 Tallinn BNS in English 1648 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Riga, Apr 07, BNS—The decision of President Boris Yeltsin to set up military bases in the Commonwealth of Independent States countries and Latvia does not evidence of fundamentally new policies, Alexander Kirsteins, the head of the Latvian parliament Foreign Affairs Committee, told reporters Thursday [7 April].

Kirsteins said he was surprised by the "theatrical performance the Latvian government staged" to protest Yeltsin's decision.

In Kirsteins' words, Russia has never regarded its radar station at Skrunda in Latvia as a military institution but it always considered it as a military base. In this context, Yeltsin's statement is not surprising.

On the other hand, it is characteristic of the Russian government to issue inadequate statements to see reaction of other countries to them, Kirsteins said. Such statements are retracted afterwards, he said.

Premier Seeks Official Retraction

LD0704220994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2119 GMT 7 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Kuchina]

[Text] Riga, 8 Apr—"Spoken apologies are not enough," Latvian Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs said in regard to Russia's references to an erroneous mention of Latvia in an order by Boris Yeltsin on setting up bases on the territory of that Baltic state. "In the given situation it will not be possible to sign the agreements initialled and additional talks are needed," the head of government stressed. "But they can only take place after the order in question is recalled at official level."

Valdis Birkavs spoke on local television on Thursday evening. He arrived in the studio after cutting short his attendance at a meeting of the governing coalition in the Saeima, and laid out the position of the "Latvias Tselsh" faction, which is part of the coalition with the Christian Union faction. Birkavs has frequently stressed that a treaty on withdrawing troops from Latvia is necessary, but "all obscurities should be removed." In his words, "if a treaty is not signed, great uncertainty will arise given the aggressive aims of Russia expressed in the document signed by Mr. Yeltsin." In his opinion, "Russia has shown that it does not need a treaty, but for Latvia it is necessary."

Concern has been caused at the Latvian Foreign Ministry by the information that Russia's Foreign Ministry had not taken part in the drafting of the document. "If that is the case how are the President's orders prepared?" Maris Riekstinsh, Latvian Foreign Ministry state secretary asked. "We have not received any clarifications and have only the report that a mistake was made."

Birkavs: Russian Plan 'Deliberate'

WS0804100694 Tallinn BNS in English 0712 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] RIGA, Apr 07, BNS - Latvian Prime Minster Valdis Birkavs downplayed Russia's allegation that the mentioning of Latvia among the projected 30 locations for Russian "near abroad" military bases was merely "a technical mistake."

"Such technical mistakes almost never occur in the world," Birkavs told BNS. Consequently, the motion should be a deliberate action, he noted.

Moreover, the interpretation of the incident does not affect the Latvian stance, the premier stressed.

"Russia has unveiled plans to establish military bases here. Latvia needs additional guarantees from Russia and from other countries that the bases will not be set up," Birkavs added.

"The issue of deployment of any Russian bases on the territory of Latvia is not being raised and does not exist," Yeltsin's spokesman, Vecheslav Kostikov, said in a formal statement, according to The Associated Press.

Birkavs predicted that the incident would show the world community how real the threats to the Latvian security are and how much the Baltic country needs international security guarantees.

Simultaneously, Birkavs conceded that no country or organization was likely to assume for responsibility for Latvia's security in the near future. It is a gradual process in which Latvia is trying to integrate by safeguarding its security, first of all, itself, the prime minister said.

Defense Minister Valdis Birkavs told BNS that Yeltsin's resolution was tailored to find out Latvia's views. Russia stepped back after it sensed the sharp counter reaction, he said. Similar tactics has become traditional for Russia, Pavlovskis said.

Russia has said several months ago that it, like the United States, needs military bases abroad but Latvia was never before enclosed in the list of "eligible countries."

Russian Envoy Gives Official Apology

LD0704214594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1359 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Russian Ambassador in Latvia Aleksandr Rannikh extended in Riga Thursday Moscow's official apologies due to the "misunderstanding" around President Yeltsin's order to create military bases outside the Russian Federation.

Earlier the news media said that by his order Yeltsin backed the initiative by the Russian Defense Ministry on the creation of military bases in the CIS countries and Latvia.

Addressing on the same day a briefing in Riga, the Russian Ambassador admitted that there was "a technical mistake" which was detrimental to the Russian-Latvian relations and made difficult the political dialogue.

Rannikh said that he had doubt about the origin of the document. He said that the Russian Embassy in Riga did not receive the official report from Moscow that the document was signed and was in force.

He believes that Latvia's negative reaction to the document was caused by the tense situation caused by preparations being under way for the signing of the Latvian-Russian agreements on the Russian troop pull-out.

Rannikh also confirmed that all problems associated with the pull-out and the conditions of the temporary deployment and status of the radar station in Skrunda were solved and the documents were initialed by the chief negotiators of the two countries on March 15.

According to the agreement, the Russian radar in Skrunda is a Russian military facility which is under the civilian control and cannot be regarded as a military base.

Opposition Plans To Block Treaty Ratification

MK0704104094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 7 Apr 94 p 4

[Report by Natalya Vecherskaya, correspondent of the GAZETA press agency, specially for SEGODNYA, from Riga under the "Latvia" rubric: "Saeima May Fail To Ratify Treaty on Army Pullout. Opposition Sees Russian Retirees as Republic's Potential Enemies"]

[Text] The history of the Russian-Latvian treaty on the army pullout reminds one of a detective story. Even now that the agreement has already been initialed by heads of government delegations, a number of questions remain unresolved. One of them is whether the treaty will be signed at all. At any rate, the radical opposition in the Latvian parliament is not very enthusiastic about it and continues to do its utmost to block the treaty's ratification.

Aleksandr Kirsteins, chief of the Movement for Latvia's National Independence parliamentary faction and chairman of the parliamentary international affairs committee, explains: "We do not oppose the treaty itself. But this is not a single document; this is a package of agreements, including the matter of the Skrunda radar and the matter of social safety nets for retired Russian officers. It is the latter question on which our faction disagrees. Russia insists that Latvia should take over the social protection of officers who left service before 22 January 1992. But if we gave in on Skrunda, this does not mean at all that now we should accept any terms that Russia is trying to impose on us."

"The Constitution of the Latvian Republic was reinstated as early as 4 May 1990. It is from that day that we have seen Russian officers as servicemen of another state. Hence, by fulfilling this provision Latvia would directly violate its own Constitution. Even if in the period from 4 May 1990 to 22 January 1992 the army may be considered Soviet, not Russian, even then the social safety nets for its officers will be a matter of Latvia's bilateral agreements with Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan, but by no means with Russia alone," he claimed.

"Moreover, from our point of view, one cannot talk with such assurance that all Russian servicemen will automatically remain in Latvia. We cannot accept this, either. We cannot confer the status of Latvian citizens on officers of a foreign army, that is, people who are potentially disloyal to the state. Such people number around 50,000 in Latvia, and they are far from innocuous lambs. According to our information, these are officers who served in special purpose units in Moldova, in the Caucasus, in Afghanistan. Why should we need this contingent—from professional assassins to specialists in psychological warfare? Let them practice all that in Russia, not in Latvia," Mr. Kirsteins said.

He also thinks that the reluctance to sign the treaty in its present form cannot give Russia a pretext for blackmailing, such as: "No treaty, no army pullout." "If Russia is to be a normal, democratic state, if it is to cooperate with key European countries, it will withdraw its troops even without any agreement. If not, no treaty will help."

The parliament's majority faction holds a more cautious view on the problem. Indulis Berzins from "Latvian Path" said that the treaty initialed in Moscow is very much based on compromise: "Of course, I do not like some of its provisions. I do not think that Russia, either, is pleased with everything." To all appearances, "Latvian Path" and its allies will advocate the ratification of the treaty. "Let the Saeima decide whether we need the treaty or not," Mr. Berzins noted. "But we must clearly determine right now who will be responsible if it is not signed. Currently it is easy for the opposition to bring together rallies and pickets, currently all are heroes. But whom will the people hold responsible if the army does not leave on 31 August?"

Nationalists Call Rally Against Treaty

LD0704113394 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1000 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] The Association of National Forces of Latvia invites everyone to gather for a demonstration at the Freedom Monument at 1200 on 16 April to avert ratification of the Russian-Latvian treaty on the Russian troop withdrawal.

Former Minister To Head Local Election Alliance

WS0804101894 Tallinn BNS in English 0712 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] RIGA, Apr 06, BNS - The Saimnieks (Master) political association was created to participate in the coming local governments elections, said Ziedonis Cevers, ex-interior minister and president of the Drosiba (Security) foundation.

Saimnieks will nominate practical specialists who have proved their abilities in various spheres of life, Cevers told reporters.

Cevers himself plans to run for Riga mayor.

BNS asked Cevers to name the priorities of Saimnieks' economic program but he answered that the association was established only recently and its programs are not ready yet.

Another leader of the new organization, President of the Private Enterprise Association Valdis Krisbergs, told BNS that the emphasis should be put on small and medium size business development and welfare of people. Krisbergs characterized the Latvian capital, Riga, as "the poorest and the most expensive city in the world."

Other founders of Saimnieks are MPs Eriks Kaza, Ernests Jurkans, actor Ivars Kalnins.

Lithuania

Ministry Supports Latvia on Military Bases

LD0704124994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1048 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] "Only the Latvian Republic can decided whose military bases can be stationed on its territory," says a message distributed by the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry on Wednesday evening after the publication of the Russian president's order on the creation of Russian military bases on the territories of CIS states and the Latvian Republic "to ensure security of the Russian Federation and the above mentioned states and to test new armaments and military equipment."

On April 6 a source in the Kremlin reported to Interfax that the wording about the creation of a military base in Latvia "is the result of an inappropriate phrase which was included into one of the documents of the Defense Ministry and then appeared in a corresponding order of the Russian president."

The message of the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry underlined that "unilateral actions by Russia aimed at the creation of military bases in the Latvian Republic despite the will of this sovereign state contradicts the principles of international law and international obligations taken by Russia as a member of the UN and CSCE."

Russian Ambassador Summoned

LD0704151094 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1400 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Albinas Januska, Lithuanian deputy minister of foreign affairs, today summoned Nikolay Obertyshev, Russian ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary in Lithuania, to the Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The view of the Lithuanian Government on the decree of Russian President Boris Yeltsin was explained to the ambassador. He was told that such unilateral actions by Russia are unacceptable to Lithuania.

The attention of the ambassador was drawn during the meeting to the fact that the Russian stand, disseminated

by the Russian diplomatic missions, attempting to disclaim the annexation of the Baltic states in 1940, has no historical or legal foundations. Such a stand is contrary to the Lithuanian-Russian agreement of 29 July 1991 on the foundations of interstate relations, where Russia acknowledged that in 1940 the USSR annexed Lithuania.

In discussing the return of the Lithuanian Embassy building in Paris, Albinas Januska expressed his concern that Russia has so far failed to solve this issue.

Presidential Adviser Notes 'Tension'

WS0704182694 Tallinn BNS in English 1648 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Vilnius, Apr 07, BNS—Russia's intentions to create military bases in Latvia and countries of the CIS "can hurt the fragile agreement between Russia and Latvia on the Skrunda radar base," Justas Paleckis, foreign policy adviser to the Lithuanian president, said Thursday [7 April].

Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed a decree April 5 suggesting Foreign and Defense ministries to create bases in Latvia and the CIS for testing new weapons systems.

Paleckis said he hasn't seen the official text of the decree yet, but if media reports are precise enough, the Russian leader's decision can create tension in Baltic-Russian relations.

The presidential adviser said the decree contradicts Brazauskas' view that the Baltic coast should be free of arms in the future. Paleckis said the idea was mentioned in the Lithuanian president's speech at the United Nations last year.

Paleckis said military bases in foreign countries is an international practice, "but everything depends on historic circumstances and agreement between states, while the historic circumstances for Russia's military return to the Baltic states are unfavorable in this case."

Presidents Release Statement

LD0804105394 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0900 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] The presidents of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania have urged the Russian president, Boris Yeltsin, to state personally and publicly that Latvia's inclusion into the countries where Russia intends to establish military bases is a mistake, and to confirm his previous obligations to withdraw speedily and completely the army from Estonia and Latvia.

The Baltic presidents also appeal to the international community not to stand aside at a time when Russia is hardening its policy toward these states.

The statement by the Baltic presidents was prepared yesterday and made public this morning. The three presidents welcome reports from Russia that the leaders of that country's government acknowledged that a mistake was made in the Boris Yeltsin edict of 5 April by including Latvia among the countries where Moscow intends to establish military bases. In welcoming this news, we notice with concern the consequences of such incidents to our countries, our relations with the Russian Federation and, on the whole, to the possibilities of all countries to work with Moscow's government, the document states.

The presidents note that such actions, such as the 5 April edict and the Moscow decision on the same day at the negotiations with Estonia and Latvia to repudiate matters already agreed upon have consequences which reach much further than the negotiations between our countries and Russia.

Such actions obviously intimidate our nations and, in addition, they increase tension in Europe, raising the question of the reliability of the Russian Government as a partner in negotiations. The Baltic countries have always negotiated with the Russian Federation benevolently, and will continue to do so. In addition, our governments will do everything in their power to reduce the consequences of these ill-fated incidents. But our efforts have obvious limits, and therefore we apply to all interested countries to help us in our efforts, the statement by the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian presidents notes.

Slezevicius: Contacts With Russia at Standstill

LD0704134994 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1200 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] The dialogue with Russia recently came to a halt and all messages sent to Prime Minister Chernomyrdin remain without reply, Lithuanian Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius told a news conference today, describing relations between Lithuania and Russia.

He criticized yesterday's statement by Boris Yeltsin on Russia's military bases on the territory of other states. Russia has started an aggressive economic policy toward the Baltic states. The Lithuanian prime minister cited as an example a 15 April decision to increase customs duties. Russia is introducing strict limitations on the import of some goods. Therefore, Adolfas Slezevicius said, we will be compelled to discuss and adopt reciprocal measures.

Negotiations with Belarus on the delimitation of borders are also at a standstill. The Lithuanian prime minister links this with the political situation in Belarus. Sea borders with Latvia have been agreed in principle, and coordination at parliament level between the two countries is now taking place. Describing the situation, the prime minister noted that the establishment of sea borders both with Russia and with Latvia will not be to Lithuania's advantage, but such is the geographical situation of our republic.

The prime minister announced his forthcoming visit to Kuwait this coming weekend. Two agreements are to be

signed there—on the protection of investments, and a document on a $50 million credit. A plan for using these funds already exists. Adolfas Slezevicius called the small state of Kuwait one of the largest donors in the financial world. If our first experience of cooperation is successful, it is possible that we will arrange a permanent credit line.

Describing documents adopted at a government meting on Wednesday, the prime minister noted a decision which regulates the mechanism of declaring especially expensive property items. A decision was also adopted to double the taxation on wholesale imports of alcohol to Lithuania. If in the past a wholesale trade license cost 150,000 litas, now it will cost 300,000.

Comments on Decree, Problems

LD0704190894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1715 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Dialog between Lithuania and Russia has been virtually suspended, Latvian [as received] Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius said at a press conference in Vilnius on Thursday.

In the words of the prime minister, Russia "is conducting an aggressive economic policy in relation to the Baltic states." The regulation of export and import introduced in the Russian Federation on March 15 is "bluntly discriminating", Slezevicius said.

The Lithuanian premier also said that he had a meeting with the head of the Kaliningrad regional administration Yuriy Matochkin who in the near future is scheduled to meet with Chernomyrdin. Slezevicius asked him to inform the Russian premier about Lithuania's position. Its essence is that "if Russia has no intention of changing its decision and continues the policy aimed at reducing imports, Lithuania will have nothing to do but to resort to adequate measures in relation to the Kaliningrad region."

The Lithuanian premier also noted that Russia is not repaying its debt for the transit of electricity. "We would not like to resort to limiting this transit," Slezevicius said.

According to the premier, Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas sent a letter to Russian President Boris Yeltsin about the problems in relations between the two states.

Further Details; Letter to Yeltsin

LD0704140094 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1300 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] The Lithuanian-Russian dialogue has come to a halt, but Lithuania is striving for it—and above all the contacts between the presidents of the two countries—to be normal. This was stated by Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius at a news conference today.

The prime minister announced that President Algirdas Brazauskas yesterday signed a letter to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, describing all problems of cooperation. Lithuanian-Russian relations have been also discussed at a meeting of the foreign policy coordination council chaired by the president.

Slezevicius also said that his letters and attempts to talk to Russian Prime minister Chernomyrdin remain without response. As is known, Lithuania is inviting Russia to confirm the note on the coming into force of the treaty on the most favorable trade regime. The treaty was signed last November in Vilnius, but Russia has so far not ratified it.

The head of the Lithuanian Government also told the news conference that Russia is conducting an aggressive policy toward the Baltic states. It was also said at the news conference that if Russia does not change its attitude, Lithuania will take the same measures as regards the Kaliningrad region.

Landsbergis Derides Alleged Plan for Base

WS0704181194 Tallinn BNS in English 1648 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Vilnius, Apr 07, BNS—Vytautas Landsbergis, leader of the Lithuanian parliament's rightist opposition, claimed Russia's plans to create military bases in Latvia are "a political aggression resembling Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's (Russian ultranationalist) statements."

Commenting on the Russian president's recent decree, Landsbergis said "Russia's intention to create military bases in neighboring countries is a new imperialistic defiance of the international community and civilized norms accepted in it," Landsbergis said in a statement circulated Thursday [7 April].

The opposition leader expressed regret that the Russian president has to assent to demands of the military. "Latvia's ascription to a group of states where Russia acts as if at home is very dangerous to the international law."

Comments on National Defense Structure

LD0804112094 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0900 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Guoda Salciute report from the Seimas]

[Text] Right-wing opposition leader Vytautas Landsbergis, speaking at today's news conference, gave a positive assessment to the fact that the president has blocked the law on agriculture recently passed by the Seimas. According to him, such a law would legalize a second land nationalization. But this law was not the main topic at the news conference of the right-wing opposition leader.

Vytautas Landsbergis focused his principal attention on a statement adopted by the Homeland Union, the Christian Democratic, Nationalist and Freedom factions in the Seimas on tension in the national defense structure.

One of the examples of such tension are searches in the apartments of servicemen, which violate the Constitution and provoke people. One of the main sources of such tension is the activity of the leading group of the present National Security Committee, its chosen unlawful way of exceeding the authorizations of parliamentary control and carrying out functions of the executive power, striving to take over the whole national defense system. He also says that lack of confidence in the chairman of the National Security Committee is rife and that the composition of this committee should be changed. Since the Democratic Labor Party leadership is capitulating to these extremists, stabilizing actions must be taken by the republic's president, he said.

To a question on how the composition of the Seimas National Security Committee could be changed, Vytautas Landsbergis replied: In the usual way, like everything else. And if the ruling party does not take such actions, it will bear full responsibility for the consequences.

Speaking of the collection of signatures by the Social Democratic faction under an interpellation to the government, the leader of the right-wing opposition said that material collected by the Social Democrats is essential for the analysis of the government's work, but stressed that the Homeland Union favors an interpellation questioning the ruling of the Democratic Labor Party and not of the Slezevicius government. There are no reserves to form a better Democratic Labor Party government, therefore we speak of new elections and not of a change of the government, he said. The Homeland Union intends to take further steps in solving Lithuania's problems, and these steps should be known next week, Landsbergis said.

Landsbergis also spoke about the technical errors in the documents signed by the Russian president, stressing that this was an old tactic of Russian foreign policy: To reflect [as heard] and then deny, leaving this reflection in [word indistinct]

Belarus To Permit Visa-Free Travel Until 14 Apr

WS0704162994 Tallinn BNS in English 1030 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Excerpt] Vilnius, Apr 07, BNS—The Lithuanian Foreign Ministry received a note from the Belarusian Foreign Ministry informing that Lithuanian citizens will be allowed to travel to Belarus without entry visas until April 14.

Belarus introduced visa requirements for Lithuania April 3. Lithuania made the step March 1. [passage omitted]

Board: Polish, Lithuanian TV To Share Channel

WS0704163394 Tallinn BNS in English 1306 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Vilnius, Apr 07, BNS—The Lithuanian state radio and TV board decided on Tuesday [5 April] that channel 38 will be shared by the Polish TV Polonia and the Vilnius-based Baltijos TV.

The state-run TV Polonia, which recently replaced Polish national TV on the channel, will show its programs every second day three times a week. The private Baltijos TV, which is a Lithuania-USA joint venture, will have four days on the channel.

Gintaras Songaila, Baltijos TV director general, said he will bring action against the board. In his words, politics is mixed up in the board's decision and in its activities in general.

Gediminas Ilgunas, chairman of the radio and TV board, agrees that the decision is not very good. He added, however, that a suggestion to divide time on the channel by hours was not perfect either.

Ilgunas said the dispute over channel 38 started last December when the board decided that Polish state TV would broadcast for 45 hours a week and the remaining time would be rented by way of contest. But Polish TV and Baltijos TV, which won the remaining time on the channel in a contest, failed to agree on air time, he said.

In Ilgunas' words, Polish TV complained that Baltijos TV ignores its interests and interrupts its programs whenever it wants.

"The Poles got what they wanted," Songaila said. He noted that his station is able to fully cover time on channel 38.

Songaila said the board's decision violates laws regulating media activities in Lithuania. According to the existing legislation, a media company must be registered in Lithuania and the share of foreign capital in it must not exceed a half of its stock capital. Why doesn't this apply to TV Polonia, Songaila said.

But the board has not yet discussed the situation on a channel rented by TELE-3, a private TV station that broadcasts throughout Lithuania. Liucija Baskauskaite, the station's owner, presented document to the board confirming that the station paid all bills to communication services. Ilgunas said the station's debt reached 165,000 lits in mid-March.

The Lithuanian radio and TV transmission center earlier submitted a claim for arbitration demanding to cancel its contract with TELE-3 because of its debts for transmitter rent. The center accused the station of violating other terms of the contract.

But the state arbitration failed to pass any decision Wednesday.

Social Democrats Lack Confidence in Government

LD0704100894 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0900 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] The faction of Lithuanian social democrats, fulfilling its promise, on 5-6 April officially submitted to other factions of the Lithuanian Seimas its motives of no confidence in the work of the Lithuanian Democratic

Labor Party government, led by Adolfas Slezevicius, and a draft statement of no confidence in the government.

Interest in 'Burying' Klyuger Affair Reported

PM0804083394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Apr 94 First Edition p 6

[Report by Yuriy Stroganov: "Scaring People with Agents"]

[Text] Vilnius—We had thought that the affair of KGB agent "Klyuger" was over and done with long ago. In particular, ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA reported that Lithuania's law enforcement organs had wound up their investigations into the well-known entrepreneur A. Klimaytis [name as transliterated], who had been accused of collaborating with the KGB to benefit the USSR. A. Klimaytis was a prominent politician and a vigorous supporter of the ideas of the Democratic Labor Party, which ultimately became the ruling party. In the period of the battle for power A. Klimaytis was accused of collaborating with the KGB and was arrested.

Now comes a new report. K. Milkeraytis [name as transliterated], special investigator with the General Prosecutor's Investigations Department, has stated at a press conference that certain political strata have an interest in burying the notorious A. Klimaytis-"Klyuger" affair.

It is symptomatic that the bugbear of the KGB has been brought out of the closet at precisely this time.

"We would not be surprised at the desire of any political forces to gain power if it were done by democratic means, if those forces were able to concentrate greater intellectual potential than the forces currently in power, and if they knew better ways to solve Lithuania's problems," a statement from political prisoners and dissidents reads. "Unfortunately, this cannot be said of the political forces which are currently striving to destroy authority and to destabilize all spheres of life...."

Voluntary Defense Force Chief of Staff Appointed

LD0704131994 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1200 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] According to a decree of the president of Lithuania, Lieutenant Colonel Algirdas Pocius has been appointed chief of staff of the country's voluntary defense service.

Homeland Union Head Criticizes Indexation Decision

WS0704163494 Vilnius ELTA in English 1300 GMT 7 Apr 94

[From "News Bulletin" No. 472]

[Text] Vilnius, April 6, ELTA—Chairman of Homeland Union Board Gediminas Vagnorius criticized the decision of Government on indexation of enterprise property at a news conference on Wednesday [6 April].

Vagnorius claimed that the decision did not provide the restoration of the value of the artificially devalued state property and of the earlier issued shares.

Foul Play Suspected in Ship's Sinking

WS0704162894 Tallinn BNS in English 1030 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Vilnius, Apr 07, BNS - The Lithuanian freighter Elatma sank in the North sea under "very suspicious circumstances," the ship's captain told Kestutis Miniotas, president of the Vortika company that owned the ship, the Vilnius-based LIETUVOS AIDAS newspaper said.

As previously reported, Elatma sank early Monday [4 April] some 80 kilometers off the Dutch coast. All 11 crew were rescued by a Belgian navy helicopter. The freighter was transporting more than 1,300 tons of ammonium nitrate to France.

Miniotas quoted the ship's captain as saying that Elatma couldn't have started to take on water because of weather conditions or through technical reasons. The captain said the ship's hull looked as if an explosion took place inside it.

Miniotas said the ship's hull was in good shape and was supposed to keep the freighter on float even if water penetrated one of its sections. Elatma also had very modern navigation equipment, he said.

The company set up a special commission to investigate the accident and to assess the damage.

Elatma, 103 meters long and 12.2 meters wide, now lies around 30 meters deep in a zone where international navigation is very intensive. The ship may have to be raised together with the freight.